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EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW

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Big shake-up in the USA

Brazil say 'yes' to Falcao and 'no' to the exiles

BY KEIR RADNEDGE

BRAZIL have named Paulo Roberto Falcao as new manager in succession to Sebastiao Lazaroni – and he is under orders to try to ignore foreign-based stars in the run-up to next year's South American championship in Chile.

Falcao, who starred in the 1970s with Internacional of Porto Alegre and then in Europe with Roma, has no coaching experience. He attended this summer's World Cup finals in Italy as a radio and television analyst.

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Falcao said: "But this does not mean to say that we will not pick foreign-based players for future competitions. We are trying to create something new, trying to motivate the talented players we have here but who haven't had the chance to make the breakthrough to international football. What's most important is not changing the coach but changing the mentality. We have to remember that nowadays we are a long way from being the best football country in the world."

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The new Brazil's first test is against Spain on September 12.

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PAUL GARDNER REPORTS ON AMERICA'S SOCCER CIVIL WAR

FIFA'S MAN MAKES SHOCK TAKE-OVER IN THE STATES

ALAN ROTHENBERG is the shock new president of the United States Soccer Federation.

It had always seemed possible that incumbent president, Werner Fricker, would lose his bid for re-election.

For the past year, he has been under constant attack from the federation's treasure, Paul Stiehl, who never lost an opportunity to point out and publicise anything that showed Fricker in a bad light. It has to be said that Stiehl found plenty of ammunition.

So when the USSF prepared to assemble in Orlando, Florida, it seemed possible that Stiehl would win the election. Or, at least, it did until the last moment.

Then, only two weeks before the meeting – a third candidate – Rothenberg - joined the race. A lawyer from California, it is safe to bet that the vast majority of the USSF members had never heard of him. He was not a USSF member, had never been involved in USSF affairs, was not even known as a soccer person. Stiehl scoffed at the idea that such a candidate, a total outsider, could be elected – "He might as well be from Mars," said Stiehl. (He meant, it was assumed, the planet and not the sponsor).

Yet it turned out that while Stiehl had been undermining Fricker for a year it was Rothenberg who reaped the reward. Only one ballot was necessary – and Rothenberg swept home with nearly two-thirds of the votes.

A truly remarkable victory for a most unlikely candidate. How did it happen?

Ironically, the manner of Fricker's defeat bore a close resemblance to the way in which he himself had defeated the then president, Gene Edwards, back in 1984.

At that time, there was widespread dissatisfaction with Edwards' reign, a feel that the time had come for a change. Edwards seemed oblivious to this mood, and did no campaigning, saying that he would rely on his record to get him re-elected.

Campaign

But Fricker, aided by his marketing pals Steve Caspers and Phil Woosnam, introduced something that had never been seen before in USSF elections: an orchestrated campaign, in which votes were courted and counted, key delegates were wooed, and an election headquarters was set up in the convention hotel. Edwards never stood a chance.

Six years later, Fricker seemed to be the one who was unable to see what was going on, the one who thought this record would be good enough to get him elected. Both Edwards in 1984 and Fricker in 1990 seem to have believed that people would vote for them out of loyalty or gratitude.

Fricker did little campaigning until it was much too late. Stiehl had been sniping at him for a year – but Fricker felt he could ignore this. He had fired Stiehl from his job of World Cup organiser in 1988, and felt – probably correctly – that most of Stiehl's griping would be seen as sour grapes. He did not feel – and again he was probably correct – that Stiehl was to be taken seriously.

Where he went disastrously wrong was in failing to realise the strength of the anti-Fricker feeling within the USSF. This, of course, had been fanned by Stiehl. There was plenty of material to throw on to the fire. Fricker's attitude was never going to make him many friends – austere, humorless and demanding, it too often came over as simply arrogant and dictatorial.

Fricker found working with the various USSF committes a trying business. The committees are a reflection of the USSF – a volunteer and amateur organisation, made up of, shall we say, minor-league people. Fricker wanted change, he wanted it quickly, and he found the USSF's maze of regulations and bye– laws highly restricting.

It was inevitable that he would start to ignore them – probably because he believed that was the only way that things would get done.

Obviously, it is possible to please bypassed committees and to sweet-talk ignored officials. But it was not possible for Fricker to do that. He laid about him with all the subtlety of a demented bulldozer, and the enemies mounted.

He even managed to totally alienate the most powerful friends that he had. The big buys of FIFA. It was Fricker who had led the USA's drive to get World Cup-94, it was Fricker who had impressed FIFA with his seriousness, his attention to details, and the way that the people who prepared the USA's bid – and were they not Fricker's people? – listened to all of FIFA's suggestions.

But once the US had obtained FIFA's blessing for 1994, another side of Fricker surfaced. The stubborn side. Fricker had his own ideas as to

CONTINUED OVER

FIFA so happy with Rothenberg

BY KEIR RADNEDGE

FIFA's heirarchy made no secret of their satisfaction at the election of Alan Rothenberg as new president of the USSF.

Spokesman Guido Tognoni openly admitted that the world governing body had supported the Rothenberg campaign. Tognoni said: "Werner Fricker did a great job in presenting the US World Cup bid in 1988. But two years later, FIFA viewed with increasing disquiet the lack of urgency in the preparations."

Tognoni criticised Fricker for rejecting offers of advice and expertise. He said: "An executive committee decision last December that bids must be invited for the US television rights was ignored; television and sponsorship deals are still open; a professional outdoor league promised as part of the US bid is still to be formed.

"We do not want to interfere in the internal politics of the federations. But this is the World Cup, our showpiece event. We seemed to be in a vacuum, with no progress in sight."

FIFA had believed that the US World Cup administration lacked credibility and did not have the confidence of the corporate sponsors. Tognoni added: "We needed fresh blood, a new beginning. With the new president's experience we are going the right way and are sure of progress."

The Americans are also sure of the promotional support of Franz Beckenbauer. West Germany's World Cup-winning manager has lately made no secret that he is on the brink of agreeing a deal which will involve him in the US World Cup staging in the two years leading up to the finals in 1994.

Beckenbauer makes no secret either of his faith in soccer's eventual conquest of the West. He says: "Basically, the US is ideal as a World Cup host. The infrastructure is good, the stadiums are great – everything is perfect. And I am sure the spectators will come."

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USA Continued

how the World Cup should be marketed in the US. He appointed his good friends Woosnam and Caspers to run things, and they promptly went into partnership with Patrick Nally – which upset FIFA.

Fricker refused to listen. In late 1989 he triumphantly – but surely ingenuously – presented a marketing/tv deal with NBC which provided Fricker with the worst of both worlds.

The USSF membership – which had to approve it – was incensed because the complicated deal was thrust before them with an impossibly short deadline that allowed them no time to study it. And FIFA, now faced with the inescapable trust that Fricker was blatantly ignoring their wishes made the inevitable move. They vetoed the deal.

Even then, Fricker had not learned. He set to work on a new marketing deal – without in any way informing FIFA what he was up to. That was bad enough, but Fricker managed to make matters even worse by revealing that one of the partners of the new arrangement was a company with which Patrick Nally was involved.

To complete what must have seemed like deliberate provocation to FIFA – Fricker chose to announce the new marketing deal during World Cup-90. "FIFA does not like surprises," said FIFA Press Chief, Guido Tognoni, "and FIFA does not like this deal."

Fricker's intransigence was exasperating FIFA, and no doubt this was what turned their thoughts to the idea that he might be defeated in the 1990 election. Which is where Rothenberg enters the picture.

FIFA had dealt with Rothenberg during the 1984 Olympic Games, when he had been the Commission for the remarkably successful soccer tournament. The idea of Rothenberg as a candidate, backed fully but not quite openly, by FIFA was born.

By the time that Rothenberg entered the race officially, it is now clear that a good deal of work had already been done to ensure his success. When Rothenberg arrived in Orlando for the election, he arrived with a highly professional staff that made Fricker's campaign look as amateurish as that of Gene Edwards six years earlier. The votes had already been secured. Rothenberg entered the fray knowing that he was a winner.

Paul versus Paulo – Caligiuri of the USA beaten by Maldini of Italy during the World Cup clash in Rome.

Meetings

That was possible because of an aberration in the USSF's voting system. Under this, one third of the votes belong to the youth division, one third to the seniors, and one third to the professionals. That last division – the professionals – is really a farce. There is no professional football in the USA – only an indoor league. A situation that means that the eight clubs of the Major Indoor Soccer League control one third of the votes.

Fricker tried, too late and too transparently, to get these votes. He had meetings with the MISL Commissioner Earl Foreman. He agreed that the US National Team would play against the MISL teams (outdoors, of course), he promised the MISL teams first choice for franchises in the yet-to-be-formed outdoor pro league, and he agreed to let the MISL change its name, by dropping the "Indoor", to Major Soccer League.

But Earl Foreman has never been known as a friend of football. After the meetings, he stated "I don't give two **** about outdoor soccer." When it came to the election, all the MSL votes went to Rothenberg.

Which means that Rothenberg came into the election with a solid basis – one third of the votes assured. The large anti-Fricker vote on top of those ensured that he won easily.

And now the US Soccer world is asking who is Alan Rothenberg, where does he come from, what does he stand for? Rothenberg does have some soccer background – during the late 1970s he was part-owner of the NASL's Los Angeles Aztecs (George Best and Johan Cruyff played for them at different times), in addition to his football work during the 1984 Olympics.

He has also been involved in pro basketball, as a former President of the Los Angeles Clippers. Though the performance of the Clippers over the years is hardly a recommendation – they are famous for being quite awful. Their most embarrassing moment came when a top college star, Danny Ferry, chose to play in Italy rather than join the Clippers.

But Rothenberg seems to attract important, influential posts. For a time there was talk that he might become Commissioner of the National Basketball Association. That didn't happen, but he was elected president of the California State Bar Association.

With his performance in the largely ceremonial position of Olympic Soccer Commission, he impressed FIFA, who turned to him as a viable alternative to Fricker. Rothenberg said he had been in touch with FIFA and that they had let him know that they were greatly dissatisfied with the current USSF leadership.

That should really surprise no-one. For the fact is that FIFA is used to dealing with top people, and the USSF has never specialized in attracting top people. Fricker is a successful property develope and builder, but neither he nor any of his associates in the USSF could be described as people who are well-known, or move comfortably, in top business circles.

On top of the new World – Franz Beckenbauer in New York

It was probably this fact, more than any other, that worried FIFA. Corporate America was showing little faith in the USSF, and alarmingly little interest in getting involved in World Cup– 94. Coca-Cola were sitting on the sidelines, Anheiser-Busch were expressing disquiet. Chiquita Bananas had signed a 4 million, four-year deal back in 1988 with the USSF, but recently announced that they were pulling out, complaining that they were not getting what they had been promised, and hinting that the service was anything but professional.

FIFA also detected hesitation on the part of top-name people to join in. Henry Kissinger joined, dropped out, then joined in again. Steve Ross, head of the new Warner-Time Inc giant and former boss of the Cosmos, joined the World Cup-94 Organising group, but made no public moves. And Ahmet Ertegun, who founded the Cosmos, refused to become involved. No doubt there was direct communication with FIFA about the doubts that these key people felt.

There was talk that FIFA were about to take the World Cup away from the USA. FIFA denied this, but one cannot help wondering just where the rumours originated. Much of this ferment was known to Fricker, who flew to Switzerland for talks with FIFA President Joao Havelange more than once. But Fricker seemed oblivious to the danger. His most spectacular response was to produce the new marketing deal, which further upset FIFA.

That marketing deal, with a new company headed by former Kodak executive Michael Forte, will be a big test for Rothenberg. It is clear that FIFA want it killed. But it is a legally signed contract or is it? There is some suggestion that Fricker – not for the first time – ignored the USSF's regulations in getting approval for it. FIFA, through its chosen agent Rothenberg, may yet get its way on this one.

For there is no reason to doubt that Rothenberg is FIFA's man. The stunning truth hit home to Paul Stiehl at 6.30 am on the morning of the Presidential election. That was when he received a telephone call in his hotel room in Orlando. It was from FIFA Press Chief Guido Tognoni, who asked him to drop out of the race and to swing his support behind Rothenberg.

Stiehl professed to be outraged by the pressure. He stood up immediately before the voting and told the delegates: "You're not going to believe this, but this morning I had a phone call from FIFA" and went on to accuse FIFA of a "hostile take-over, a siege from outside the family of the U.S. Soccer Federation." After the vote, he added: "I was naive enough to think that we were in control. But the voting has been orchestrated."

It looked that way, and the appearance greatly angered many USSF people, including those who opposed Fricker. Proud people, who resent any outside interference, particulary from foreigners. A group of former USSF Presidents has sent a letter to FIFA asking for an enquiry into the matter.

Vote

FIFA clearly – and legitimately – had a vital interest in the result of the election. Yet it seems quite probable that their attempts to assert influence – apart from the matter of persuading Rothenberg to run – had very little effect. The two crucial factors in Rothenberg's success were the MSL vote and the anti-Fricker vote.

It is unlikely that Earl Foreman and the MSL would be affected by anything that FIFA has to say (indeed, one of the main reasons for the formation of the indoor league was to get out from under FIFA's iron control of the rules of the game), while the anti-Fricker vote was an exclusively domestic matter.

Rothenberg is reputed to be a man who knows how to put the right people in place. Which means that he will shortly have to decide just who is going to run the unwieldy USSF for him. He has hinted that he would like to see the Federation's HQ moved from its isolated seat in Colorado ... but the suggestion has been made that it may end up in Los Angeles, which is where Rothenberg is from.

There have even been suggestions that the World Cup Organising Committee (a separate body) should move its office from Washington DC to Los Angeles. This hardly sounds like an intelligent start – for both bodies have a lot of dealings with Europe via telephone – something that the eight-hour time difference to California makes extremely difficult.

Rothenberg also has to decide what to do about the national team. It is inconceivable that he will retain either coach Bob Gansler or technical director Walter Chyzowch, both of them Fricker's chosen men. In this connection, there is the matter of Franz Beckenbauer to be sorted out. There is little doubt that Beckenbauer will be going to the US. The only question is when, and in what capacity.

For the moment, Rothenberg has declared a two-month truce. No changes will be made until his appointed team of business experts reports back to him with a study on just how the USSF is at present operating, and what should be done about it. Now that should be one interesting document.

How Ramos and co were brought back to earth

BY PAUL GARDNER

Ramos, one of the top Americans in Italy this summer.

FACING up to the reality of world soccer has been a brutal experience for the players of the United States national team.

Reared on a rather anaemic diet of friendly games against club sides, and of qualifying games against the mediocre countries of CONCACAF, they were brought crashing down to earth in their very first World Cup game in Italy. A 5-1 hammering by Czechoslovakia. Two more losses followed – 1-0 to Italy, 2-1 to Austria – and at no time did the team impress.

Which meant, of course, that none of the players had a chance to do the thing that was so important to so many of them. To play, stand-out in games and impress European coaches ... and then get offered lucrative contracts in Italy, or Spain or France or wherever.

There have been no serious mainstream contract offers. The US players have found out that they are not good enough for the international market, that their talents – at least, as seen in Italia '90 – have not impressed European coaches.

Even midfielder Tab Ramos, the most impressive of the Americans, the player most frequently mentioned by observers in Italy, failed to land a contract. This was particularly upsetting for Ramos – because he already had an offer from the Dutch First Division club Roda before the World Cup started.

The offer made on the basis of Ramos's play during the CONCACAF qualifying games, would have netted Ramos £300,000 over three years. Ramos wanted a two-year contract, and negotiations were still going on when Italia-90 started.

The deal never came off – possibly because Roda wouldn't agree to a two-year deal, possibly because they lost interest ... or possibly because of the part played by the United States Soccer Federation.

The Federation got involved because they were the ones who were employing Ramos. Because there is no professional league in the United States, the USSF had decided in 1988 that it would pay national team players what it termed a grant. The USSF became, in effect, the "club" for all the national team players, the owner of their contracts.

It was with the USSF that Roda had to agree on a transfer fee. The USSF asked for £650,000 (80% of which would have gone to Ramos), but Roda apparently fainted away at the thought of such a sum. It was reduced to £500,000 but Roda were interested only in paying £35,000. End of negotiations.

Ramos has since gone to the Spanish second division team Figueras – on loan. Another loan agreement was worked out by the USSF to send defender Steve Trittschuh to Sparta Prague in Czechoslovakia. A curious deal, this one, for Trittschuh had had a poor game against Czechoslovakia, and was dropped for the remaining two games of Italia 90! Forward Bruce Murray, offered the same deal as Trittschuh with Sparta, turned it down.

Trials

Defender John Doyle Trittschuh's replacement, was scheduled to undergo a trial with Derby in England, while midfielder John Harkes and goalkeeper Tony Meola were also reportedly looking for English clubs. Forward Peter Vermes, formerly with the Dutch club Volendam, moved to Swizterland with Neuchatel Xamax.

One player who did not even get the chance to shine with the USA during the World Cup was midfielder Hugo Perez. Widely acknowledged as the US's most skilful and experienced player, Perez was dropped from the World Cup squad at the last moment by coach Bob Gansler. The reason? "He's not fit," said Gansler, an opinion that was greeted with much scepticism, for Perez had worked hard to recover from a broken leg suffered while playing for Red Star in the French second division.

Even the USSF's own doctor would not back up Gansler's judgement. But Perez had always been a problem for Gansler, who had no clear idea of how to use him, and for USSF President Werner Fricker, who got into public salary disputes with him.

Now, Perez is set to join a first division club in Sweden.

Keeper Malo beaten by Czechoslovakia's Skuhravy in Florence.

December deadline for Americans' host cities

BY PAUL GARDNER

WHEN Luca di Montezemolo, the presiding genius of the Italian World Cup, was asked what he would do differently if he had to organize another World Cup, he replied immediately and emphatically: "Cut down the number of cities."

In Italy, they used 12 cities, and di Montezemolo had found that working with 12 different city governments – and on occasions, some of these cities had been without governments! – had been his biggest problem.

On the face of it, the Americans are ignoring his advice. They have lined up no fewer than 27 cities that are interested in hosting games for World Cup-94. But the understanding has always been that the final number would be the same as in Italy – 12. In January of this year, what looks likely to be the truth began to emerge. The Organising Committee for World Cup '94 quietly began talking about the possibility of using only eight cities for the tournament.

This is distinctly possible – there is no hard and fast FIFA rule about this – just a tradition that has seen both Spain and Italy use 12 cities for a 24-team tournament.

More will be revealed in December, which is "put-up-or-shut-up" time for the interested cities. On the 14th of that month, they must submit their bid documents. Those documents must state clearly how many games the city wishes to stage, whether it is interested in hosting the opening game or the final ... and depending on how many games are listed, a deposit of between £25,000 and £170,000 must be sent along with the documents. A requirement that will no doubt reduce the number of applicants quite drastically.

Cities in the USA that have expressed interest in staging the 1994 World Cup games

The North East The Midwest
Boston (Massachusetts) Detroit-Ann (Michigan)
New York-New Haven Chicago (Illinois)
Buffalo (New York) Blaine (Minnesota)
Princeton (New Jersey) Kansas City (Missouri)
Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Dallas (Texas)
Baltimore-Annapolis (Maryland) Columbus (Ohio)
Washington D.C.

The South The West
Rayleigh-Durham (N.Carolina) Seattle (Washington)
Charlotte (N. Carolina) Corvallis (Oregon)
Atlanta (Georgia) San Francisco (Cal.) Candlestick Park
Orlando (Florida) San Francisco (Cal.) Stanford Stadium
Miami (Florida) Orange Bowl Las Vegas (Nevada)
Miama (Florida) Joe Robbie Phoenix (Arizona) Stadium Provo (Utah)
Tampa (Florida) Los Angeles (Cal.) Rose Bowl
Knoxville (Tennessee) Los Angeles (Cal.) Coliseum

(the main and influential tenant) have shown little interest in such a project. Talks are still going on, but an alternative has already been born.

The City of New York has put forward a joint bid with the City of New Haven (in Connecticut, 79 miles north of New York). The stadium would be the Yale Bowl – which belongs to the Ivy League college, Yale University. New York would play host to all the fans and journalists.

Not until December will it be known which cities want to stage the big games, particularly the opening game and the final. Serious candidates are Miami (Joe Robbie Stadium), Los Angeles (the Rose Bowl), San Francisco (Stanford Stadium), Washington DC (RFK Stadium), and possibly the New York New Haven site.

Artificial

The current list of stadia includes some that are old and large (Michigan University in Ann Arbor, over 100,000 capacity) and some that are new and small (Blaine, Minnesota – only just built, current capacity 10,000, to be upped to 35,000 if the bid is successful).

It includes some with artificial fields (eg Kansas City and Dallas), not a big problem, as American technology can change this to grass in no time at all, and the possibility of a new, domed stadium in Atlanta. The big gap remains the city of New York. Probably the country's most important soccer community, New York simply does not have a stadium that measures up to the stringent FIFA requirements for the World Cup.

Even Giants Stadium (where the Cosmos used to play, and which is in New Jersey anyway) fails the test. The field is not wide enough – barely 70 yards, when a World Cup field must be 75 yards, plus extra yardage for the pervasive advertising boards. To widen it would involve major structural alterations, and so far the State of New Jersey (the owners) and the New York Giants gridiron team

Gary Lineker, wearing a USA jersey, in the stadium at Los Angeles after scoring twice for England in the 1985 match.

Next stop a national league

USA BY COLIN JOSE

NOW that Italia '90 is over, the world spotlight is turning towards the United States host of the 1994 World Cup.

One of the requirements for hosting the tournament four years from now (although often denied) is that the United States establish a national soccer league, something they had for 18 years before the North American Soccer League collapsed early in 1985.

Strides have already been made towards establishing such a league with the near merger of the Western Soccer League (WSL) and the American Soccer League (ASL) to form the American Professional Soccer League (APSL), which is now in its first season.

Currently the two semi-professional leagues play separate schedules, with the winner meeting in the national final which this year is scheduled to be played in Boston. Last year's final, won by the Fort Lauderdale Strikers, was played in San Jose, California.

Under the present set up with the American Soccer League confined (so far) to the east coast and the Western Soccer League to the west, travel costs are kept to a minimum with teams often playing two games on a weekend swing. For example when Boston travels to Florida, the Bolts play Miami and Fort Lauderdale on successive days before returning home.

At this time keeping travel costs to an absolute minimum is very important because attendances at most games continue to be very very small. For example in the American Soccer league this season 73 games were played between April 7 and July 1, and 23 of them reported attendances of less than 1,000. This hardly produces the kind of cash flow to allow a team to operate on a full time professional basis or to fly from coast to coast as may be required for a truly national league to operate.

Ex-England stars

Two former England internationals are currently playing in the ASL, Paul Mariner, now converted from a striker to a sweeper, for the Albany Capitals and Peter Barnes for the Tampa Bay Rowdies.

Italia '90 so far has had a negative impact on soccer in the United States, reinforcing the view of the news media and sports fans that soccer is a boring game played mostly in midfield with little excitement and very few goals. The news media has been highly critical of the defensive approach to the game by teams like Argentina, players taking dives and also of deciding games by taking penalty kicks.

None of the three major television networks NBC, ABC and CBS televised any World Cup games, not even those involving the U.S., neither did ESPN a network devoted entirely to sports. Instead the games in the U.S. were shown on TBS a cable network where it is said that only 2 per cent of its potential audience watched.

This has led to speculation that the United States would lose the 1994 World Cup because of an obvious lack of interest by Americans in general and by any of the major television networks in particular, something that has been denied by the U.S. organising committee. Unlike the Olympic Games, which has a far higher profile in the U.S. than the little known World Cup the US networks are said to be trying to avoid bidding for the rights to 1994.

Meanwhile up in Canada it is a similar story with small attendances at games in the Canadian Soccer League and a corresponding lack of interest. In Canada all 52 World Cup games were shown by The Sports Network, a national cable network who had former Scottish internationals Graham Leggat (in Italy) and Tommy Docherty in Canada along with former Canadian international Dick Howard providing expert analysis.

Despite an excellent production the problem for TSN was getting sponsors to buy advertising time something that has always been a problem for soccer games. Part of that problem is that there are very few natural breaks in soccer, as there are in baseball, ice hockey, football and basketball, while for this World Cup in particular advertisers would not buy time on a programme where rival products were clearly advertised on the boards surrounding the stadium.

In the Canadian Soccer League, the Vancouver 86ers, who are committed to playing attractive attacking soccer, remain the class of the league. However, the Montreal Supra have emerged as new challengers.

Last years beaten finalists the Hamilton Steelers, started the season with Justin Fashanu as player-coach, but he was replaced after a slow start by last years coach Vid Horvath.

Fashanu, who was expected to continue as a player then disappeared and has been fined £25,000 by owner Mario DiBartolomeo. Now in their forth season the Steelers have never once finished the season with the coach they started with.

New signings throughout the league this year are Brazilian international Edinho by the Toronto Blizzard, former Newcastle United player Kenny Wharton by the Winnipeg Fury and Scottish international Alun Evans by the Victoria Vistas.

In pre World Cup action Canada defeated the United States "B" team 1-0 and Mexico 2-1 in Burnaby, British Columbia to win the initial Corona Cup competition.

If Toronto wins the right to stage

AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE
American Soccer League
Team Stadium Capacity Coach
Albany Capitals Bleeker Stadium, 6,000 John Bramley
Albany, New York
Boston Bolts Nickerson Field, 14,700 Cesidio Mazzola
Boston, Massachusetts
Fort Lauderdale Lockhard Stadium, 19,020 Thomas Rongen
Strikers Fort Lauderdale,
Florida
Maryland Bays Cedar Lane Park, 3,000 Pete Caringi
Colombia, Maryland
Miama Freedom Orange Bowl, 70,000 David Irving
Miami, Florida
New Jersey Eagles Cochrane Stadium, 5,000 Terry Garbett
Jersey City,
New Jersey
Orlando Lions Citrus Bowl, 70,000 Gary Hindley
Orlando, Florida
Penn-Jersey Spirit Trenton State, 5,000 Dave
Trenton, New Jersey MacWilliams
Tampa Bay Rowdies Tampa Stadium, 72,000 Rodney Marsh
Tampa, Florida
Washington RFK Stadium 56,000 John Ellinger
Diplomats Washington, D.C.
Washington Stars W.T. Woodson Stadium, 11,000 John Kerr
Washington, D.C.
Coaches as of the start of the season.

AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE
Western Soccer League
Team Stadium Capacity Coach
Arizona Condors John Riggs Stadium, 4,500 Adrian Webster
Mesa, Arizona
California Emperors University of 7,000 Rildo Menezes
Redlands,
Redlands, California
Colorado Foxes Jefferson County 10,000 Emilio Romero
Stadium,
Denver, Colarado
Los Angeles Heat El Camino Junior 12,000 Bobby Sibbald
College or West
High School Stadium, 6,000
Torrance, California
New Mexico Chiles Wilson Stadium, 6,000 Dave Carr
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Portland Timbers Civic Stadium, 25,000 John Bain
Portland, Oregon
Real Santa Barbara La Playa Stadium, 8,800 Valery
Santa Barbara, Volostnykh
California
Salt Lake Sting Derks Field, 10,185 Laurie Calloway
Salt Lake City, Nevada
San Diego Nomads Apache Stadium, 7,200 Derek Armstrong
Chula Vista, California
San Francisco Bay Newark Memorial 6,000 Dean Wurzberger
Blackhawks Stadium, Newark,
California or
Spartan Stadium, 30,000 Gary Collier
San Jose, California
Seattle Storm Memorial Stadium, 10,000 Stuart Lee
Seattle, Washington
Coaches as of the start of the season

CANADIAN SOCCER LEAGUE
Team Stadium Capacity Coach
Edmonton Brickmen Clarke Stadium, 10,000 Ross Ongaro
Edmonton, Alberta
Hamilton Steelers Brian Timmis Stadium, 5,000 Justin Fashanu
Hamilton, Ontario
Kitchener Spirit Memorial Stadium, 3,000 John McGrane
Kitchener, Ontario
London Lazers J.W.Little Stadium, 5,000 Ivan Markovic
London, Ontario
Montreal Supra Claude Robillard, 5,000 Roy Wiggemansen
Montreal, Quebec
North York Rockets Esther Shiner Stadium, 3,000 Gregorz Lato
Toronto, Ontario
Ottawa Intrepid Lansdowne Park, 30,929 Drew Ferguson
Ottawa, Ontario
Toronto Blizzard Centennial Park, 5,000 Tony Taylor
Mississauga, Ontario
Vancouver 86ers Swangard Stadium, 5,000 Bobby
Burnaby, Lenarduzzi
British Columbia
Victoria Vistas Memorial Stadium, 5,000 Bruce Wilson
Victoria,
British Columbia
Winnipeg Fury Winnipeg Stadium, 32,000 Dwight
Winnipeg, Manitoba Hornibrook
Coaches as of the start of the season

AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE
Western Soccer League

	P	W	L	GF	GA	Pts
WSL North						
Seattle Storm	15	9	6	38	26	83
Colorado Foxes	15	11	4	18	8	82
San Francisco	15	10	5	27	23	79
Salt Lake Sting	16	9	7	29	28	75
Portland Timbers	13	5	8	29	29	57
WSL South						
Real Santa Barbara	14	7	7	22	24	57
New Mexico Chiles	16	7	9	21	30	57
Arizona Condors	15	5	10	27	39	57
L.A. Heat	14	7	7	27	24	51
San Diego Nomads	14	6	8	16	18	50
California Exmperors	15	5	10	21	2647	

Point System: 6 points for win in regulation or overtime; 4 points
for penalty kick win, 2 points for a penalty kick loss; three.

American Soccer League

	P	W	L	GF	GA	Pts
ASL North						
Maryland Bays	16	12	4	33	24	35
Penn-Jersey Spirit	16	11	5	28	16	34
Albany Capitals	16	11	5	24	16	33
Boston Bolts	15	7	8	24	24	21
Washington Stars	18	7	11	24	26	21
New Jersey Eagles	16	4	12	18	31	12
ASL South						
Ft. Lauderdale Strikers	15	11	4	29	17	33
Tampa Bay Rowdies	16	8	8	26	31	23
Orlando Lions	17	7	10	22	26	21
Washington Diplomats	17	5	12	19	30	16
Miami Freedoms	14	5	9	13	19	15

Point System: 3 points for win in regulation or overtime; 2 points
for penalty kick win, 1 point for penalty kick loss.

(As of July 16)

CANADIAN SOCCER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Eastern Division							
Toronto Blizzard	14	10	2	2	33	7	22
Montreal Supra	13	7	6	0	14	4	20
Hamilton Steelers	14	5	4	5	23	22	14
Kitchener Spirit	13	5	3	4	13	16	13
North York Rockets	13	3	6	4	12	13	12
Ottawa Intrepid	14	2	4	8	13	25	8
London Lasers	14	1	4	9	12	35	6
Western Division							
Vancouver 86ers	15	11	3	1	43	13	25
Victoria Vists	14	6	6	2	25	17	18
Winnipeg Fury	13	2	4	7	8	21	8
Edmonton Brickmen	15	2	2	11	12	35	6

Points System: Two points for a win, one for a tie.
(As of July 19)

SPOTLIGHT ON JURGEN KLINSMANN

BY KEIR RADNEDGE

THE self-satisfied smile vanished from the lips of the Kaiser.

The scene was an overcrowded, noisy press conference half an hour after West Germany had defeated old rivals Holland 2-1 in their second round World Cup-tie. And Franz Beckenbauer had just been asked one of those questions which managers – and 'team chiefs' to honour his formal title – hate.

I had asked the question, simply: "Since you became manager, has any one player provided a better individual performance that Jurgen Klinsmann here today?"

Questions about individuals are anathema to managers. They live in constant fear of dropping a couple of words which, when published in enormous headlines, may unbalance the delicate morale or ego balance of their squad.

Beckenbauer, in the six years since he succeeded Jupp Derwall, had learned his lesson. The smile of victory which had lit up his eyes as he talked earlier of his team's victory, disappeared abruptly.

He talked, this man who had been the greatest exponent of a revolutionary playing style, of the values of team effort, of all-round discipline, of individual personality sunk in the cause of the team.

Then it was: Next question, please?

But while Beckenbauer could dispense with the subject as simply as that, those of us fortunate enough to been present in the Stadio Meazza that day will not so easily dismiss Klinsmann's contribution to the German World Cup effort.

In the wake of the expulsion of Rudi Voller all the attacking weight fell on Klinsmann's slim shoulders. The German style demanded an enormous sacrifice of energy from two strikers; now Klinsmann was left alone to run down Van Tiggelen, Van Aerle and Ronald Koeman.

That West Germany won 2-1 was largely due to Klinsmann. He flung himself round the pitch, chased every pass, harassed every dawdling Dutchman, scored one superb goal and thrashed another drive against a post.

Klinsmann provided one of those displays which will live in the memories of those who were present; one for the history book; one for the archives of great World Cup displays.

In scaling such a peak he drew on physical and mental resources which could never be fully replenished for the matches which remained – against Czechoslovakia, against England and against Argentina in the Final.

But Klinsmann, in his way, contributed in just as decisive a way as keeper Bodo Illgner, the penalty-save hero against England, or Andy Brehme, the penalty-shot match-winner against the Argentines.

Courageous Klinsmann – taking on two defenders in the match against the Dutch in Milan.

Crowned Klinsmann – he and Buchwald leave the pitch after the final against Argentina.

West Germany's 'force of nature'

Holland tie will go down in World Cup legend

Clinical Klinsmann – scoring against Holland in the World Cup classic.

Not that you will find Klinsmann putting on airs and graces in the knowledge of his achievement. He is not that sort.

Before the game he and Ruud Gullit had spent almost half an hour together. They are old rivals and friends and Klinsmann recognised all too well the stress Gullit was suffering, trying to make a long-awaited, long-delayed comeback in no less an event than the World Cup while the newspapers were reporting the break-up of his marriage and concocting fantasies over the divorce demands of his wife Yvonnne.

Klinsmann says: "Ruud and I have been friends for three years now. Before the match he was telling me all his problems. I just said to him: 'Ruud, for me it's a miracle to see you back on a football pitch. What you are doing takes real courage and commitment to the game."

Klinsmann also saw the Voller/Rijkaard incident in the same light, saying: "Rijkaard had been marking me for the first 20 minutes of the game without ever once going over the top or leaving a foot out.

"But I could tell that he was very nervous, very intense. I think he was really wound-up because he was afraid that this would be Holland's last game in the finals. And not only Rijkaard. Many of the other Dutch players were pessimistic about the match. I think that's why everything exploded in the incident with Rudy.

"At the end I was truly sorry for the Dutch. I could sympathise with them. Two years ago, when they beat us in the European semi-final in Hamburg, I wanted to run away and hide at the end of the game. I felt humiliated. So I know how they felt."

Football is like that. A favourite cliche with managers and coaches in many languages sums up Klinsmann's understanding of the game: at the end of the day there can be only one winner.

Playing as he does, for Internazionale in Italy, Klinsmann certainly sees soccer at its most luxuriously ruthless. The majority of foreign imports fail to adjust. Klinsmann appears to be one of the exceptions – and for that he is fulsome in his praise of Inter coach Giovanni Trapattoni.

Klinsmann says: "When I first came to join Inter I was a very different sort of player. I did not realise how much I still had to learn about the game.

"I count myself very fortunate to have found a coach such as Giovanni Trapattoni at Inter. He is very thorough, he knows the game and he is very direct. He doesn't beat about the bush. If you are doing something wrong and he can put it right he will tell you straight out.

"No player, anywhere in the world, could hope to work under a better coach.

"For instance, he has taught me how to look after myself. That doesn't mean being unpleasant or breaking the laws of the game. But in Italy, if a forward is to succeed, he has to be aware in every situation so that he doesn't get caught by the 'accidental' kick or push.

"I have also enjoyed Trapattoni's training sessions. It was very different to what I had been used to. In Italy the clubs start gently whereas in West Germany the first pre-season sessions were really tough.

"I suppose that's down to the different way the championships are organised. The Bundesliga starts early, in August, and then stops in December. But the Italian league starts in September and runs all the way through to next April or May. In Germany it's like a sprint, in Italy you prepare for a distance race."

Goal-scoring standards are different, too. Goals are easier to come by in the Bundesliga than in Calcio. But the sharpening of Klinsmann's talents in the goal zone stood him good stead when it came to the World Cup finals.

A superb goal against Yugoslavia was followed by another against the United Arab Emirates and then his famous strike against Holland. With three goals in four games Klinsmann was temporarily among favourites for the top scorer's crown.

But Klinsmann, perhaps unusually for a forward, had never harboured any ambition in this direction.

He told me: "Honestly, this didn't interest me one little bit. I came to Italy last summer with two ambitions: the first was to win the World Cup with Germany, the other was to win the Italian championship with Inter.

"The one is achieved. Now for the championship.

"When I transferred from Stuttgart I promised the fans that we would win the league as soon as we could. Now that we have no fewer than three World Cup winners – myself, Matthaus and Brehme – as well as a nucleus of the Italian national team, who is there to stop us?"

In the World Cup quarter-final against Czechoslovakia it was a foul on Klinsmann which produced the penalty from which Lothar Matthaus smashed the German winner to earn a place in that dramatic Turin semi-final against England.

Yet the semi-final was not one of Klinsmann's best games.

Beckenbauer said – more at ease with the opportunity for criticism than praise: "Jurgen tried too much on his own. He made life difficult for himself."

Klinsmann says: "But my only thought was to play for the team. I know I missed two good chances in extra time against England. Perhaps the problem is that everyone now expects me to play at the same level as I did against Holland. But that was a one-off. A match like that, an occasion like that, happens once in your career – if you're lucky."

Luck is a gift every footballer needs if he is to succeed and capitalise on his talents.

Klinsmann, son of the village baker in Goppingen in Schwabia, began his football in a small-town team of TB Gingen. He was an outstanding gymnast and volleyball player but football was always going to be his metier.

His first coach, Werner Grass, says: "I have never found another lad with his pride and ambition. If he didn't score at least two goals a game he would be in tears at the end of the match. You know, when he was nine we won a match 20-0 and he scored 16 of them. When he moved up to the youth scene, with Geislingen, he scored 250 goals in four seasons!"

At 15, in 1979, Klinsmann was snapped up by VfB Stuttgart. Before his first training session he was physically ill – he was so nervous about proving himself. But he need not have worried.

His pace, strength and acceleration earned rapid progress up into the Bundesliga and then on into the national team for the first time in a 1-1 draw against Brazil in Brasilia in December, 1987.

Vital goal

Eight months later he was voted domestic Footballer of the Year and then starred at the Seoul Olympics where he scored the vital first goal in a 3-0 defeat of Italy in the third place play-off. By the end of the season offers were raining in from Italy, Spain, France and Greece as Klinsmann's Stuttgart gave Napoli a run for Maradona's money in the UEFA Cup Final.

Months earlier, in fact, Inter president Ernesto Pellegrini had pipped Atletico Madrid's "raging bull" president Jesus Gil to clinch the addition of Klinsmann's complementary talents to those of Inter's fellow Germans, Matthaus and Brehme.

Klinsmann's prospects in Italy were considered pessimistically by many friends and fellow players. He refuses to talk to the media about his private life and is never seen out and about the smart shopping arcades. Instead, if he does go into Milan, Klinsmann jams a golf cap down on his head and waits until the evening.

He surprised everyone. While remaining very much a private individual, Klinsmann worked hard at learning both Italian and Italian football. He scored 13 goals last season and was soon nicknamed Kataklinsmann by his new admirers in the Stadio Meazza.

That was no small triumph. Klinsmann had not quite realised, on arrival, just how he was on a hiding to nothing. The previous season Inter's fans had joyously applauded the Argentine centre -forward Ramon Diaz and his sudden departure after less than a year had provoked no small controversy.

Klinsmann, on the personal choice of Trapattoni, had to fill his attacking shoes.

Trapattoni was never among the doubters. He says: "Off the field Klinsmann is bright, intelligent and has a good head on his shoulders. On the pitch he's a football gymnast. He's a real athlete. He's a natural."

HUNGARY ARE JUST RIGHT FOR TAYLOR

BY KEIR RADNEDGE

HUNGARY are symbolically appropriate opening opponents for Graham Taylor's reign as manager of England.

Their 1953 visit to Wembley was, of course, one of the major watersheds in the history of English international football. The fall-out from England's 6-3 defeat prompted the first realisation that all was not well in the home of football.

England's failure in the 1950 World Cup had been dismissed as some sort of accident on a foreign field; a thrashing at Wembley could not be dismissed in the same sort of way.

Irony

The irony is that while English football learned many of the lessons of 1953 and revived to win the World Cup in 1966 and reach the semi-finals only a matter of months ago, Hungarian football has never scaled such heights again. A year after Wembley 1953 the Magical Magyars led by Ferenc Puskas were beaten by West Germany in one of the great World Cup Final upsets.

In World Cups and European championships since then they have played only a peripheral role.

Intriguingly perhaps the only occasion on which they seriously threatened to break loose was at the 1966 World Cup finals in England. Then a fine side (managed by Lajos Baroti and starring Florian Albert, Ferenc Bene, Janos Farkas and Kalman Meszoly) scored a memorable 3-1 victory over Brazil only to fall to the Soviet Union in the quarter-finals because of goalkeeping errors.

Time and again the Hungarians have raised expectations...only to disappoint. The 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico were a prime example. Hungary were rated dangerous outsiders by some experts. But in their first match they were thrashed 6-0 by the Soviet Union, confidence collapsed and they were on soon on the flight home The Hungarians have been trying to sort themselves out ever since. One daring move was to experiment with penalty shoot-outs to resolve league matches which ended in draws. The idea did not have the effect on attendances which had been hoped and neither coaches nor players liked the concept in a league framework. The league then switched to three-points-for-a-win instead.

Open professionalism has also been introduced in an attempt to get to grips, once and for all, with an undercurrent of match-fixing and corruption which has dogged the league " most recently three years ago when more than 40 coaches, officials and players were brought to court. Among them was Kalman Meszoly, who has since been amnestied and reappointed national manager.

Even here, however, the situation is confused since his predecessor, Bertalan Bicskei, successfully took the federation to court to have his dismissal notice rescinded. Hungary thus employ two national managers, though Meszoly at press time is the man who picks the team.

Football had been brought to Hungary by English students in the 1870s and a major influence was the legendary English coach Jimmy Hogan. In 1938 Hungary lost 4-2 to Italy in the World Cup Final. But " but that was as nothing compared with the upset in 1954 when Hungary lost the World Cup Final again, this time by 3-2 to West Germany in Switzerland.

Since those days Hungary have reached the finals of the World Cup in 1958, 1962 (quarter-finals), 1966 (quarter-finals), 1978, 1982 and 1986. They also reached the finals of the European Nations— championship in 1964 (finishing third in Spain) and 1972 (finishing fourth).

In the European club events, Hungarians teams have reached finals on six occasions – although only Ferencvaros have won a trophy, beating Juventus 1-0 in the Fairs Cup final of 1965.

Below: Midfielder Istvan Kozma seen against Malta. Defender Lajos Detari of Bologna above and forward Tibor Balog right.

Striker Jozef Kiprich plays for Feyenoord

THE MANAGER Kalman MESZOLY. Aged 49 (born July 16, 1941). Former international centre-back who played 61 times for Hungary between 1961 and 1971, appearing in the 1962 and 1966 World Cup finals and winning four championship medals with Vasas. Meszoly played twice for World XIs -- once in the Lev Yashin Farewell match in Moscow in 1971 – and twice for Europe Selects. After retiring, he coached Ganz-Mavag in the Hungarian second division before being appointed by first division Bekescsaba. After a successful spell with Vasas Meszoly was named as national manager replacement for Karoly Lakat in 1980. He survived Hungary—s 1982 World Cup disappointment only to resign a year later to return to Vasas. Later Meszoly was alleged to have been involved in a match-fixing ring before a reprieve and a brief move to Turkey with Fenerbahce. Midway through last season Meszoly was reappointed national manager – an appointment which caused controversy since former boss Bertalan Bicskei then won a court verdict pronouncing his own dismissal as illegal!

THE PLAYERS Istvan BROCKHAUSER. Goalkeeper. Aged 26 (born May 3, 1964) with three caps. Ujpest Dozsa. Began with Vaci Izzo, transferred last summer to Ujpest as successor to retirement-bound international József Szendrei, and was a key figure in their league championship victory last spring. Zsolt PETRY.

Goalkeeper. Aged 23 (born September 23, 1966) with one cap. Honved. Succeeded veteran international Peter Disztl at Videoton and then made his international debut as Disztl—s substitute in a 3-0 defeat by Greece three years ago. Recently transferred to Honved as successor, once more, to Disztl.

Laszlo BOONAR. Goalkeeper. Aged 31 (born March 5, 1959) with one cap. Pecs. Top-class keeper renowned for his reflexes and who will need those gifts not only, perhaps, at Wembley but during his club—s forthcoming Cup-winners— Cup first round against Manchester United. Bodnar made his international debut as a substitute in 3-1 win over Colombia in Budapest last June.

Tamas MONOS. Right back. Aged 24 with four caps. Veszprem. Creative right back who likes to link up with midfield and attack. A key member of the Veszprem side who were promoted to the first division last year. Made his international debut in a 2-0 victory over the United States in Budapest in March.

Geza MESZOLY. Fullback. Aged 23 (born February 27, 1967) with seven caps. Vasas. Made his debut as a substitute in a 3-0 win over Iceland in Reykjavik two years ago. He is the son of manager Kalman Meszoly.

Attila PINTER. Centre back. Aged 24 (born May 7, 1966) with 16 caps. Ferencvaros. Ruthless defender whose initial impact with Ferencvaros earned him a spell on trial last season with Belgian club Beerschot. Likes to advance at set pieces and scored both Hungary—s goals last October in the 2-2 World Cup qualifying draw against Spain.

Janos PALACZKI. Defender. Aged 22 (born August 30, 1968) with three caps. Pecs. Key figure in Pecs— successful progress up through the Hungarian first division last season to a fourth-place finish plus a 2-0 cup final victory over Honved. Made his international debut in a 2-0 victory over the United States in Budapest in March.

Zsolt LIMPERGER. Defender. Aged 21 (born September 13, 1968) with five caps. Ferencvaros. Quick-tackling newcomer to the line-up last year. Made his debut in the 2-1 Belfast victory over Northern Ireland, then scored a fine first international goal in the 2-0 defeat of the United States this past spring. Limperger can play centre back or left back.

Gergy Bognar

Istvan KOZMA. Defender/midfield. Aged 25 (born December 3, 1964) with 19 caps. Dunfermline (Scot). Made his Hungary debut as a substitute against Norway in the autumn of 1986. Began with Ujpest Dozsa in 1981 and almost earned a World Cup squad call-up in 1986 with some fine displays in leading Hungary—s youngsters to the semi-finals of the European under-21 championship. Moved to Scotland last year after a long-awaited transfer to Bordeaux fell through.

Tibor SIMON. Defender. Aged 25 (born November 11, 1965) with two caps. Ferencvaros. Another recent introduction to the national squad by manager Meszoly. Can play both right back and defensive midfield but had an unhappy international debut in a 4-0 World Cup defeat by Spain in Seville last November.

Zsolt MARIASI. Midfield. Aged 22 (born October 14, 1967) with four caps. Videoton. One of the most promising of the new wave of talent introduced to the national team squad by manager Meszoly. Mariasi is considered by Videoton as just the man to inspire a revival to match their deeds of the mid-1980s, when Videoton were UEFA Cup runners-up. Made his international debut in a 2-0 victory over the United States in Budapest in March.

Emil LORINCZ. Midfield. Aged 24 (born September 29, 1965) with one cap. RWD Molenbeek (Belgium). Established his reputation with MTK/VM Budapest and has just been sold this past summer to RWD, who have just regained their place in the Belgian first division. Lorincz made his national team debut in a 3-0 defeat by Austria in April.

Lajos DETARI. Midfield/forward. Aged 26 (born April 24, 1963) with 41 caps (11 goals). Bologna (Italy). The major star of Hungarian football – the dominant player of the current era in the manner of Ferenc Puskas, then Florian Albert, then Tibor Nyilasi. Detari made his international debut against Switzerland in August 1984 and enjoyed his best game for his country when he scored the first goal and created the other two in a 3-0 win over Brazil in Budapest in the spring of 1986. He was top league scorer in Hungary both in 1985 with 18 goals and in 1986 with 27 which included a penalty hat-trick in a remarkable 5-5 draw between Detari—s Honved and MTK Budapest. Detari was voted Hungarian Footballer of the Year in 1985 and was sold by Honved in the summer of 1987 to West German club Eintracht Frankfurt for what was then an East European record fee of £1.2million. Detari, who played for the Rest of the World in the 1987 Football League Centenary match at Wembley, was an instant success in Germany. But barely had he scored Frankfurt—s winner in their 1988 cup final victory over Bochum than he was moving on again to Greek giants Olympiakos of Piraeus for £4.7million. That made Detari the most expensive Eastern European player of all time. Olympiakos then hit a boardroom crisis so Detari has just been sold to Italian club Bologna for a 'knock-down— £3million.

Gergy BOGNAR. Midfield. Aged 28 (born November 5, 1961) with 3 caps (five goals). Standard Liege (Bel). Made his debut in September 1985 against South Korea while on tour in Mexico. Over-age member of the team which reached the 1986 European under-21 championship semi-finals. Began with Baja – the same first club of international brothers Peter and Laszlo Disztl – before moving to MTK in 1979. In 1988 he was sold to French club Toulon but never settled because of injury problems and transferred this year to Standard.

Jozsef DURO. Midfield. Aged 24 (born June 27, 1966) with four caps. Vasas. Hard-worker whose international career could take off this autumn through the absence of luckless Zoltan Csucsanszky – the Videoton star ruled out for some time after injuring a knee while on trial with Coventry. Duro made his Hungary debut in a 2-0 victory over the United States in Budapest in March.

Tibor BALOG. Forward. Aged 26 (born August 31, 1963) with 17 caps. MTK/VM Budapest. Called into the squad for the first time last season by Bicskei. Formerly with Vasas, where he was first discovered by national manager Meszoly.

Robert JOVAN. Forward. Aged 22 (born November 4, 1967) with three caps. MTK/VM Budapest. Another former Videoton starlet who made his made his international debut against the US this year.

Tamas PETRES. Forward. Aged 22 (born September 3, 1968) with three caps. Veszprem. Quick-raiding attacker who began with Videoton and was top scorer with 19 goals in the Hungarian league in 1988-89. Petres then emerged with his reputation further enhanced by trapping an agent making under-the-counter offers on behalf of rival clubs. Petres recorded all his phone calls, handed the evidence over to the federation and the agent was banned. Petres, meanwhile, was transferred last spring to Veszprem. Collected his first goal for his country on his international debut in a 2-0 victory over the United States in Budapest in March.

Pal FISCHER. Forward. Aged 24 (born January 29, 1966) with nine caps. Ajax Amsterdam (Hol). Joined Ajaxlast summer from Ferencvaros. One of the most dangerous forwards to emerge in the Hungarian first division in the 1988-89 season when reviving Ferencvaros ran Honved close for the championship. The issue was settled in Honved—s favour only on the last day of the season.

Kalman KOVACS. Striker. Aged 24 (born September 11, 1965) with 28 caps. Auxerre (Fr). Began with Honved, who considered him an heir to the attacking traditions of Puskas, Kocsis, Tichy, Detari and Co. Made his national team debut as substitute against Wales in Cardiff in 1985, after being promoted through the youth and under-21 teams. Good nose for a goal as he proved when he scored four goals in the 5-2 thrashing of Panathinaikos in the UEFA Cup two years ago before transferring to France (Honved lost that tie 7-6 on aggregate!).

József KIPRICH. Striker. Aged 27 (born September 6, 1963) with 38 caps (11 goals). Feyenoord (Hol). Moved to Holland last summer from Tatabanya. Often national captain, Kiprich was joint league top scorer with Detari in 1984-5 with 18 goals each. Became a national hero overnight for scoring the first and second goals in the 3-0 win over Austria in 1985 which ensured Hungary—s place in the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico. Coincidentally he had made his international debut against Austria in the opening match of that qualifying group, in September, 1984.

ROBSON SETS HIS TROPHY TARGETS

BY MEL HENDERSON

Bobby Robson has inherited a good squad, but he'll buy if necessary . . . and that could mean a raid in the UK.

BOBBY ROBSON wipes the sweat from his brow after pushing himself through a tough training session with his players, surveys his new working conditions, and admits: "I love it here!"

The scene is the palatial training headquarters of PSV Eindhoven, the Dutch club backed by electrical giants Philips, who are paying the former England manager a reported £500,000 over the next two seasons to spark their attempt to regain the Champions' Cup.

PSV were the last winners of the competition before AC Milan, ironically inspired by the Dutch triangle of Rijkaard, Van Basten and Gullit, swept to two successive victories. Now Robson, fresh from a World Cup campaign that enhanced his reputation in Holland, has been entrusted with the task of repeating their 1988 triumph.

"I want is as much as they do," he enthuses. "Look at my career and what's missing? The European Cup. I've been involved in everything else with Ipswich and England, so the thought of going for the big one excites me. And I know I can only have a crack at it if I lead PSV to the Dutch title this season.

"I know what's expected of me over here. The championship this season and the European Cup next. That's my brief, if you like. But I couldn't ask for better working conditions and the club know they have taken on someone itching to do well.

"The return to club football after eight years in the international scene is just what I needed. I love the day-to-day involvement with the players as much as I missed it with England. And, believe me, I've inherited some of the finest players in Europe at PSV."

Robson arrived in Eindhoven during a summer of transfer activity. Without reference to him, Dutch international pair Johnny Bosman and Erwin Koeman had arrived and Fleming Polsen and Wim Kieft, who was on target for Holland in their World Cup clash with Egypt, had left.

There could be further deals in the weeks ahead, however, as Robson familiarises himself with the overall playing strength and decides whether reinforcements will be needed. If so Robson refuses to discount the possibility of looking to England, and more particularly his former international players, to supplement a squad already rich in talent.

Inevitably, no sooner had Robson cleared out his office at Lancaster Gate and arrived in Eindhoven than he found himself subjected to newspaper speculation linking him with several of England's heroes in Italia 90. But he insists: "There is nothing in the pipeline. I have heard several names mentioned but there is no foundation to stories that I am buying this player or that.

"I admit that if I felt the need to strengthen my squad I would consider looking to England. But why should that surprise anyone? I know the transfer market over there, I know what people are worth, and I would know if I was getting value for money. Terry Venables did the same at Barcelona, with Lineker, Archibald and Hughes, and he knew exactly what he was paying for.

"But before I get involved in any transfer business I'll be looking very carefully at the playing staff here. That's my specific area within the club. My job won't be like managing Ipswich, for example, where I did a million and one other things. I'm in charge of the playing side, and that's it."

Robson clearly relishes the prospect of working on the continent, an opportunity denied him during his days at Portman Road. His European exploits on behalf of Ipswich, culminating in UEFA Cup glory in 1981, brought him to the attention of the richest foreign outfits, and both Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao offered him a fortune to desert Suffolk for Spain. "I bit my tongue each time," he recalls, "and decided to honour my contract."

Once his eight-year commitment to England was over, however, Robson was free to accept PSV's offer. "The fact that they speak such excellent English over here was a big plus factor," he says.

"Imagine if I'd gone to Spain or Italy and had to start taking language lessons, or if I'd been giving instructions at training sessions and team talks through an interpreter. Wouldn't work. A big part of the job is communicating with the players, and that isn't a problem here."

Eventful

Robson has difficulty launching this latest chapter of an eventful career without permitting himself to reflect on what might have been in Italy a few weeks ago. "We were up there alongside Italy and West Germany as the best teams in the World Cup – this is undisputable," he maintains.

"We were just a penalty kick away from the final and we'd have fancied our chances going through to meet Argentina.

"But we came back with our heads held high and there were plenty of good points about our participation in the competition. Paul Gascoigne, for example, was a revelation. He played in six matches and in every one of them he was outstanding and caught everybody's eye. In the semi-final we pushed him into a one-to-one with Matthaus and he more than held his own.

"There were people clamouring for me to have Paul in the team a year earlier and I made a few more enemies when I refused to rush him. I stuck to my guns because I didn't think he was ready then. I don't think he could have coped with international football when he was just beginning to get into his stride at Spurs.

"But when I gave him a run in the games before we set off for the World Cup he showed he could do it. He was probing, prompting and promising so much that it was impossible for me to leave him out over there.

"I'm a Gascoigne fan, but I hope the lad realises that he is going to have to repeat his World Cup form and build on it. He'll have to be reminded that world-class players don't just do it in six games. The greats do it over several years, and keep producing.

"Paul was definitely the best young player in the World Cup and now, I hope, he will become even better. That should be his aim and he certainly won't fail for lack of ability.

"There were plenty of other successes over there. Parker, Walker, Platt and Wright all did extremely well, Lineker too. And other senior players also emerged with credit when the critics were lining up to have a go.

Injury

"Shilton, his mistake against Italy apart, was probably the best goalkeeper in the tournament, and I was pleased that Butcher did so well. He had a bit of a knee injury and his critics were saying he was a yard short of pace. But who got past him?

"Pearce was solid – not many got past him either – and he crossed more balls than most wingers I saw. Then Dorigo came in and proved we have two very good left-backs."

Robson's gamble on introducing the sweeper system for the qualifying game against Holland, and then persevering with it in subsequent matches, paid off handsomely. But he reveals: "It wasn't a spur-of-the-moment decision. I made up my mind three or four months earlier to play with a sweeper against the Dutch.

Sweeper

"When the draw paired us with them I thought back to our European championship game when they beat us 3-1. They won't beat us 3-1 next time," I thought to myself. It was always on the cards that I'd use a sweeper against them. That was why I took Mark Wright instead of Tony Adams.

"I was never going to risk Walker and Butcher against Gullit and Van Basten. I made up my mind about that, but never told a soul. I knew it was a risk we shouldn't take.

"Wright was the ideal choice as sweeper. He's quick, he can read the game well, he can intercept, he's good in the air and he can bring the ball out of defence to get things going. I knew that if Van Basten had slipped Butcher, for example, Mark would be there to tidy up."

As the World Cup is consigned to the memory bank, Robson is concentrating on the domestic campaign that, hopefully, will earn him and his side a passport into the European Cup in 1991.

"I know what I have to do," he says with a grin that wasn't always present during his spell with England. "Last season PSV were second in the League and won the Dutch Cup. Anything less and I won't have been a success."

Paul Gascoigne was a revelation in Italia '90.

PLAYER PORTRAIT

AUGE'S EYE ON THE FUTURE

BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

SOCCER'S ultimate triumph came late in Klaus Augenthaler's footballing career. At 33, Bayern Munich sweeper and skipper Augenthaler became a world champion.

His success with West Germany in the World Cup brought him a total bonus of £85,000, half from the German FA and the rest from sponsors. Yet Augenthaler had been something of a surprise selection for the squad.

He had been discarded after the 1986 tournament in Mexico, and was not recalled until three years had passed.

Team chief Franz Beckenbauer tried other "liberos" but eventually, on account of Bayern Munich's international experience, he settled for Augenthaler.

In the first World Cup preparatory matches this year, he was either not fully fit (1-2 v France), or absent through injury (3-3 v Uruguay). But he recovered sufficiently to star in the last two build-up games, v Czechoslovakia and Denmark (both won 1-0) and convinced Beckenbauer that he was the man for the key position.

Augenthaler's strengths are enormous experience, tackling, command in the air, sound technique, a cracking shot and excellent vision. How apt therefore that his nickname is "Auge" – it means "eye" in German. Perhaps he now lacks pace, but that is not surprising in view of advancing years. He compensates for that with admirable positional play.

Klaus Josef Augenthaler was born on September 26, 1957, in Furstenzell, Bavaria. He grew up in the small town of Vilshofen on the River Vils. In that area of Lower Bavaria, ice hockey is the most popular sport and National League club EV Landshut the biggest attraction.

The Vils flows past the Augenthaler family's house, and usually freezes in the winter so every day after school, Klaus and his brother Manfred, five years younger, would put their skates on and chase the puck. The physically tough game seemed to suit young Klaus and his career might have been in ice hockey. But football soon became his first love, and he joined FC Vilshofen as centre-forward in the youth team. In 1975 he was spotted and engaged by Bayern Munich, and never looked back. He was converted into a defender and eventually became an attacking sweeper. Like his idol Beckenbauer used to be, with the same club.

Augenthaler says: "I was certainly not an outstanding footballer. I was always surrounded by others who appeared to have more talent." But the basic ice hockey training served him well. His coach, Udo Lattek, used to say: "Athletically, Klaus is one of our best players."

In 1977 Augenthaler helped the Bavarian representative side to win the Amateur Inter-State Cup. He played his first Bundesliga match on October 8, 1977, and has now appeared in 377 (50 goals), plus 82 in Europe (11 goals). And he has a remarkable honours collection – a record seven, three Cup victories, 27 full internationals, eight "B" matches, and 11 games for the national youth team.

His worst experience occurred on November 23, 1985, when he fouled international striker Rudi Voller of Werder Bremen. Voller was carried off and the headlines even provoked death threats to Augenthaler and his family. Eventually he needed police protection around his home in Vaterstetten. He now admits: "I have since become more careful. Rather than cause an opponent an injury, I pull out of the tackle."

Last show

Now he has retired from the national squad – the World Cup final was his last big show in the black-red-and-gold colours. But he will continue to lead Germany's most successful club in another attempt at the Champions' Cup, Bayern's No. 1 target this season.

His contract runs until 1991, and then he probably will hang up his boots. Then he will have more time to watch Landshut's ice hockey games, visit his parents in Vilshoben more frequently, go to the cinema and take care of his family – wife Monika and daughters Tina (8) and Lisa (5 months).

His main hobby is fishing, but he also likes to eat well, play cards with good friends, ski and play tennis. He also enjoys reading, rather than watching television – except when he is shown in a winning game! His favourite holiday destinations are Austria and Italy.

Auge does not think he would make a good coach, but wants to retain his links with Bayern, "where I spent a big part of my life." He claims that his strength lies in knowing his weaknesses. His worst habit is smoking ...

A World Cup winner ... but his selection in the squad came as a surprise to many in West Germany.

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Maradona has made the European Cup his top target this season.

Alemao celebrates another goal ... another victory on the way to the Italian League title.

Brazil star Careca joined Napoli for £3 million in the summer of 1987.

CLUB FOCUS

THE LAST VOLCANO

Maradona has a final chance to erupt in glory

BY KEIR RADNEDGE

DIEGO MARADONA appears to have turned over a new leaf – and that could be bad news for Napoli's rivals in the European Champions' Cup.

Right on the appointed day, at the appointed hour, the Argentine superstar flew into Naples's Capodichino airport. What a contrast to last year, when Maradona tucked himself away on a fishing trip somewhere in the middle of Argentina and refused to come out.

When he did, it was to a string of controversies, climaxed by perhaps the greatest of all.

Having arrived last year around three weeks late for pre-season training Maradona then attracted headlines for all the wrong reasons – for a row with coach Albertino Bigon after not training before a vital UEFA Cup-tie, for the extravagance of his midweek flight home during the season to marry, for his outspoken criticisms of referees and, finally, for his provocative behaviour during the World Cup finals.

Maradona, deeply unpopular in much of Italy, stoked up the fires of further antagonism when he appealed for the people of Naples to 'forget you are Italian for one day' and support Argentina against Italy in the semi-final.

When it came to the Final against West Germany Maradona was at his most vengefully boorish. Furious at the continual jeering to which he was subject and to which his image on the giant stadia screens was subjected, he waited until that moment during the national anthems when the camera was full on him ... to clearly mouth a vulgar riposte.

That was not all, of course. At the end of the Final Maradona refused to shake hands with FIFA president Joao Havelange – blaming him for an 'anti-Argentine' campaign – and took his tears straight down into the dressing rooms without granting West Germany the courtesy of awaiting the Cup presentation.

And yet ... it could just be that Maradona, even this late in his career, will learn the lessons of those humiliating exposures. He says he has finished with the Argentine national team; he says his sole ambition, while he remains in Europe, is the Champions' Cup. Perhaps the World Cup reminder that even he is vulnerable to defeat will galvanise him to concentrate less on his fortunes and more on his football.

Maradona has played once in the Champions' Cup, when Napoli lost in the first round two years ago to Real Madrid. But just over a year ago they displayed their international potential with victory in the UEFA Cup Final over Stuttgart.

The problem is that Napoli are a sort of Italian Barcelona: just when everyone seems to be getting back to concentrating on football some other controversy rears its head.

The face of Maradona decorates a back street in Naples.

Fans with the symbolic donkey ... dressed to thrill.

Nothing has ever come easy for this volatile club – looking back as far as their European debut, made in one of the most unlikely places, at Bangor in Wales, in the 1962-3 Cup-winners' Cup. They were expected to win easily, with a team featuring Italy right-winger Amos Mariani and Argentine forwards Humberto Rosa – a new signing that summer from Juventus – and Juan Carlos Tacchi.

But, in keeping with the tradition of a club whose teams have promised so much over the years and produced so little when it mattered, they struggled.

The first leg saw Bangor collect a spectacular 2-0 victory. But those goals were not quite enough in the San Paolo stadium in Naples. Goals from Mariani and Tacchi turned the tie around before Bangor pulled one back early in the second half through McAllister. It was not until the 84th minute that Giovanni Fanello scored the goal that brought Napoli level an aggregate through a 3-1 win.

Nowadays Bangor would have gone through on the away goals rule, but the early regulations merely sent the teams on to a play-off. Highbury was the venue where two goals from Rosa earned a 2-1 victory.

Brinkmanship was the keyword in the second round, too.

Again Napoli needed a play-off to beat Hungary's Ujpest Dozsa. The quarter-finals against OFK Belgrade also went to a third match. But this time Napoli's luck ran out. OFK won 3-1 and went on to lose to eventual winners Tottenham.

The season ended in further disappointment. Seven Napoli players were reported to the federation for doping offences in a 1-0 win over Milan. But such was the attitude at the time that only four – goalkeeper Pontel, defenders Molino and Rivelino and centre-forward Tomeazza – were suspended and then only for three weeks. Napoli's form then collapsed and they were duly relegated!

Napoli did little in the following years to ever threaten to become a force in European competition. Before last term they had never reached a final and only once a semi-final. That was in 1976-7 in the Cup-winners' Cup when Napoli beat Bodo Glimt (Norway), APOEL Nicosia and Slask Wroclaw – hardly the toughest sequence – on the way to semi-final defeat at the hands of holders Anderlecht. A Napoli team which starred ex-Inter fullback Tarcisio Burgnich, World Cup midfielder and later general manager Antonio Juliano and £2million world record signing Beppe Savoldi lost 1-0, 0-2.

Founded

In 1986-87 they lost in the first round of the UEFA Cup to French club Toulouse. Napoli lost on penalties and it was Maradona who missed the vital spot-kick. Then, after winning their first-ever Italian league crown, it was their ill fortune to be drawn against Real Madrid in the first attempt at the Champions' Cup.

The Societa Sportiva Calcio Napoli s.p.a. were founded in 1904 and entered the Italian first division in 1929. They were relegated in 1942 and came back up in 1946. Since then they have been relegated on three further occasions.

So until recently the main moments for celebration were the promotion campaigns of 1949-50, 1961-62, 1964-65, plus triumphs in the Italian cup in 1962 and 1976, the Cup of the Alps in 1966 and the Anglo-Italian Cup in 1975 (Napoli beat Southampton 4-1 in the final. Napoli also featured in the first Anglo-Italian Cup final, where they were 3-0 down at home to Swindon when crowd trouble forced the 79th-minute abandoning of the match).

Over the years Napoli have spent heavily trying to keep their crowds happy. In the late 1960s they bought Omar Sivori from Juventus and Jose Altafini from Milan and finished second to Milan.

That was their best-ever domestic placing until 1986-87 when not only did Napoli win the championship for the first time, they became the first team since Juventus in 1962 to secure the league-and-cup double. In the cup final Napoli beat relegation-bound Atalanta easily 3-0, 1-0.

But it was the league title which mattered most. Celebrations included a parade with 300 musicians and 200 Sardinian donkeys and a fireworks display on Vesuvius. This past spring such scenes were repeated. Napoli fans can only now hope that Maradona's volcanic activities bury the opposition out on the pitch rather than smother his team-mates in a cloud of controversy.

Continued over

NAPOLI
CONTINUED

THE COACH
Albertino BIGON. Aged 42 (born October 31, 1947). Former midfielder with Padova, Spal, Foggia and Milan in the 1970s. Took over during last summer in place of Ottavio Bianchi, the league title-winning boss whose personal relations with Maradona had reached the point of no return. Bigon, whose first division coaching experience was limited to a spell with Cesena, was expected to be a stop-gap pending Napoli's acquisition of Argentine World Cup coach Carlos Bilardo. But the combined effect of Bilardo's lack of interest and Napoli's championship success under Bigon provided him with a little security.

THE PLAYERS
Giovanni GALLI. Goalkeeper. Aged 32 (born April 29, 1958) with 19 caps. Transferred to Napoli this summer from Milan, having played his last game for them in the European Champions' Cup Final triumph over Benfica. Galli was born within sight of the leaning tower at Pisa. Made his first division debut for Fiorentina in a 5-1 thrashing by Juventus and his national team debut, more happily, as substitute for Ivano Bordon in a 3-0 win over Greece in Bari in October, 1983. Immediately after the 1986 World Cup finals he was sold by Fiorentina to Milan.

Giuliano GIULIANI. Goalkeeper. Aged 31 (born September 29, 1958). Bought two years ago from Verona to replace Claudio Garella, a popular keeper one who was sacked for his part in a 'player power' revolt. Giuliano began with Arezzo, and made his first division breakthrough with Como in 1980.

Raffaele DI FUSCO. Goalkeeper. Aged 28 (born October 6, 1961). Came up through the Napoli youth squads. First entered the senior squad at 17 in 1978 but did not make his debut until a 1-1 draw in Pisa in March 1984. Has had two spells out on loan, with Vicenza and then Catanzaro in 1985-6 in the second division.

Giancarlo CORRADINI. Defender. Aged 29 (born February 24, 1961). Signed two years ago from Torino, whom he joined in 1982. Corradini had spent all his previous career in the lower divisions with Sassuolo (fourth), Genoa (second) and Reggiana (third and second).

Antonio CARANNANTE. Defender. Aged 25 (born June 23, 1965). Signed two years ago from Ascoli.

Ciro FERRARA. Right back. Aged 23 (born February 1, 1967) with 17 caps for his country. One of Italy's most promising defenders, who made his national team debut in the 3-1 win over Argentina in Zurich in June, 1987. Napoli youth product who also had a baptism of fire in the league, making his debut in a 0-0 draw against Juventus in 1985 when he was only just 18.

Massimo FILARDI. Fullback. Aged 23 (born December 20, 1966). Signed from Varese in 1985.

Giovanni FRANCINI. Left back. Aged 27 (born August 3, 1963) with 12 caps for Italy. Expensive summer signing from Torino in 1987 since he was rated the 'new Cabrini'. Appropriately for a defender his star sign is Leo (the lion). Made his Italy debut as a substitute for Antonio Cabrini in a 3-2 European qualifying victory over Switzerland in Milan in November 1987. However his international prospects hit a snag with the emergence of Paolo Maldini at Milan and Luigi De Agostini at Juventus.

Alessandro RENICA. Defender. Aged 27 (born September 15, 1962). Sylvester Stallone fan who was on the receiving end of a knock-out blow two years ago in a 1-0 defeat at Pisa when he was struck by a coin thrown from the crowd as the players left the pitch at half-time. The match was awarded 2-0 to Napoli by the league's disciplinary committee. Began with Vicenza and joined Napoli from Sampdoria four years ago. It was Renica who headed the last-minute goal which beat Juventus in extra-time in a UEFA Cup quarter-finals second leg in 1988.

Marco BARONI. Defender. Aged 26 (born September 11, 1963). Signed last summer from Lecce for whom he played 33 matches last season.

Cosimo PORTALURI. Defender. Aged 20 (born March 24, 1970). Youth product who made his debut two years ago but has yet to establish himself.

Massimo CRIPPA. Midfield. Aged 25 (born May 17, 1965) with five caps. A major signing last year from Torino, whose fans and players made strenuous efforts to try to persuade the directors not to sell. Injury meant Crippa narrowly missed a place in Italy's squad for the European championship finals in West Germany two years ago.

Luca ALTOMARE. Midfield. Aged 18 (born January 14, 1972). Highly-rated prospect lately promoted from the youth sections.

Fernando DE NAPOLI. Midfield. Aged 26 (born March 15, 1964) with 40 caps for Italy. A World Cup regular in both 1986 and this year after being one of the stars of the Italian team which finished runners-up to Spain in the 1986 European under-21 championship. Between the semi-finals (in the spring) and the final (that autumn) De Napoli squeezed into Italy's senior World Cup squad in Mexico ahead of experienced veteran Gabriele Oriali. Began with Avellino, transferring to derby rivals Napoli immediately after returning from Mexico. Made his Avellino debut in December 1983 and his senior international debut in the 2-0 win over China in May 1986. Remained an international regular through the 1988 European championship when Italy lost to the Soviet Union in the semi-finals. Wanted to leave Napoli this summer (reputedly for Juventus) even though his contract had not expired. Napoli president Corrado Ferlaino vetoed his request.

ALEMAO – Ricardo Rogerio De Brito. Midfield. Aged 28 (born November 22, 1961) with 35 caps for Brazil. Made his name with Botafogo, where he was seen as a successor to the great midfield tradition of Didi and Gerson. Alemao made his international debut in 1983 and was long a transfer target for Portuguese club Benfica. Transfer talks broke down eventually in the spring of 1985 because Alemao refused to move abroad until after the World Cup. West German club Stuttgart had also shown an interest but it was Atletico Madrid who eventually signed him in the spring of 1987. Two weeks later Vicente Calderon, the Atletico president who had personally flown to Brazil to complete the deal, died. Alemao was unhappy with the regime of new president Jesus Gil and coach Cesar Menotti and was delighted to be sold to Napoli last year. He had hardly arrived in Italy, however, before he contracted hepatitis but recovered to be a key figure in the 1988 UEFA Cup triumph. Alemao was a key member of the Brazil World Cup team in Italy this summer.

Diego Armando MARADONA. Midfield/attack. Aged 29 (born October 30, 1960) with 79 caps (31 goals) for Argentina. Born Lanus in the district of Buenos Aires. Stands 5ft 6 and weighs 11st 11lb. His brilliance in the 1986 World Cup established him beyond all doubt as the world's No 1 player after which he became probably the world's most unpopular player this summer in Italy. His displays in Mexico showed no ill-effects from a knee injury he had suffered when kicked by a hooligan in San Cristobal, Venezuela, on leaving the field after a World Cup qualifier in 1985. Suffered a recurrence of the trouble during a kick-about with friends before the start of the 1985-6 league season but Napoli needed him so an operation was delayed until it was too late for him to do anything other than play on. It would have been too late to regain fitness in time for Mexico but in the event careful rest in between matches and cautious training solved the problem. Maradona duly followed up his Mexican triumph by inspiring Napoli to their Italian league-and-cup double. Maradona's contract with Napoli runs to 1993 and he has said he then intends to return home to Argentina to play out one last season with Boca Juniors. Last year (1989) saw Maradona triumphant in the UEFA Cup but then hit controversy after controversy. First came a poor performance in the South American championship (Argentina finished third), then the row over his extended holiday, his mid-season marriage and the robbery of his bank deposit box with much of his wife's jewellery and the Golden Ball he was awarded as top player at the 1986 World Cup.

Francesco ROMANO. Midfield. Aged 31 (born April 25, 1969). Under-21 international. For many experts, the unsung hero of Napoli's 1987 championship win. At the start of the season they were clearly short of a player who could bring a little practical thought to midfield. In October, in the fortnight set aside for in-season transfers, Napoli paid second division Triestina £450,000 for Romano and he proved an instant success. Began with Reggiana, moved to Milan in 1979 but was discarded as a failure in 1983 and picked up for next-to-nothing by Triestina. Prefers to play on the left side of midfield where he is best placed to support Maradona. Missed most of last season with a broken leg.

Antonio BUCCIARELLI. Midfield. Aged 20 (born August 13, 1970). Napoli youth product.

Giuseppe INCOCCIATI. Forward. Aged 26 (born November 16, 1963). Expensive new signing from Pisa this summer; his challenge is to fill the gap left by Andrea Carnevale's sale to Roma.

Massimo MAURO. Midfield. Aged 28 (born May 24, 1962). Expensive signing last summer from Juventus where he suffered under the weight of expectation from having to fill the midfield/attacking role vacated by Michel Platini. Began with Catanzaro – Juventus signed him for £1.8million from Udinese in the summer of 1985.

Giorgio VENTURIN. Midfield. Aged 22 (born July 9, 1968). Summer signing from promoted Torino; Venturin was a part-exchange element in the sale of Italy midfielder Luca Fusi.

Gianfranco ZOLA. Midfield. Aged 24 (born July 4, 1966). Signed last year from third division Torres. Deputised brilliantly several times for Maradona last season and has even scored goals for Napoli from Maradona-style free kicks.

Andrea SILENZI. Forward. Aged 24 (born February 10, 1966). Transferred to Napoli this summer from second division Reggiana.

CARECA (Full name: Antonio Oliveira Filho). Centre-forward. Aged 29 (born October 5, 1960) with 49 caps for Brazil (29 goals). Joined Napoli in a £3million deal in the summer of 1987. Began his career with Benfica, a minor club in Brazil's Campinas state. Was signed by Guarani and helped them win the Brazilian championship, under sometime national team boss Carlos Alberto Silva, when still only 17. Made his international debut in a 1-1 draw against Czechoslovakia in March 1982 but missed the World Cup that year because of an injury in training in Spain on the eve of the finals. Was then sold to Sao Paulo. Made World Cup amends in superb style with his leadership of the Brazilian attack in Mexico three years ago when he scored five goals, including two against Northern Ireland. Careca was 25-goal top scorer when Sao Paulo won the 1986-87 Brazilian national championship and he scored a vital goal in the final against his old club, Guarani. He was Brazil's Sportsman of the Year in 1986, has developed an explosive partnership with Maradona in the Italian league and rivals Van Basten for consideration as the game's top centre-forward.

Marco FERRANTE. Forward. Aged 19 (born February 4, 1971). Youth product.

Maurizio NERI. Forward. Aged 25 (born March 21, 1965). Signed two years ago from third division Ancona.

Defender Giancarlo Corradini was signed from Torino.

The moustachioed maverick 'keeper started his career as a striker...

Roger Milla goes for goal after dispossessing the colourful Colombian

HIGUITA WON'T BE MOVED

BY NICK HARLING

THE BEST news to emerge from the World Cup Finals was that Rene Higuita will not be changing his flamboyant ways. One of the few players to bring a modicum of fun to the general tedium of the games in Italy, the tragedy was that Colombia's goalkeeper was made to pay for his most eccentric moment. It came, as the whole world now knows, in the second round tie, against Cameroon when Higuita attempted to upstage Roger Milla, coincidentally, one of the few other players to also enlighten the finals with a smile as well as dexterity.

Under the eyes of the watching Neapolitan crowd, not to mention a vast global television audience, Milla gained a decisive victory in the personal one-on-one conflict around the centre circle. "We wanted Higuita to come out dribbling," said Milla, "but I think that he thought he was a better dribbler that I was. I had to show him who was best." The sequel of Milla snatching the ball off Higuita to go on and shoot into an empty net was enough to make many a goalkeeper decide on a more reserved approach in future. Fortunately, not the 25-year-old Higuita.

True, he entered press conferences at the San Paolo stadium, looking a trifle sheepish, bemoaning, no doubt, the fact that the only reason his presence had been demanded by the world's media, was that he had made what was to prove the most appalling gaffe of the entire Finals. It would surely have been preferable, would it not for Higuita, had he strolled in following a sublime performance in the safe knowledge that the questioners would want extra information on how he had reached this shot or that. Instead all they wanted to know was what possessed him to race more yards out of his penalty area, than is even the custom for him, to demand a return pass from Jose Perea.

By obliging, the otherwise excellent sweeper was partly to blame. He could have swept the ball upfield but Colombia being Colombia, that was not his way or Higuita's. Not for them the expedient of the safe way out. Football is after all so much of an art form to these South Americans, that anything was better than the hurried boot to safety. So it was that Higuita took on Milla. "I always play like that. It is my style but today it didn't work," he reflected. "Most of the time, things have turned out well and I work hard not to make mistakes but this time I made a mistake and I'm sorry. I don't think I can change although this is a good experience for the future." The bottom line might be just enough to make any European club manager reconsider his options. If top continental managers were wondering whether Higuita might not be a safety risk, they might be tempted if only he could restrict his upfield excursions just a little. For Higuita has made no secret of that fact that he is desperate to play abroad, to leave once and for all, the Colombia where he grew up and made his name. He makes no secret either that the chief reason is money. "I hope that the World Cup Finals were seen as a major test of my abilities," he said.

He refutes suggestions that with Europeans more eager to display their propensity for accurate long range shooting, his impulsiveness might be a lot less conducive to the footballing philosophy abroad. "On the contrary there will be even more opportunity to come out," says Higuita, "because the Europeans play more long balls and hit their passes into the spaces behind the defenders. That is where I can help." Colombian manager Francisco Maturana insists that Higuita's antics do not prevent him sleeping at night. "Higuita is without a doubt the saviour of Colombia and not the crazy goalkeeper that some see in him. He brings the ball out with competence and great security." Maturana is not far from the truth. For in all Higuita's ventures from his goal, there were few times in Italy when he did not deliver the ball straight to a team-mate, as Rudi Voeller, for one, will testify, after their testy personal duel in the Group D game against West Germany. Though he was often under the severest pressure, Higuita invariably found a colleague with his clearance.

To discover, in such circumstances, that he started life as a centre forward with a boys club in his native Medellin, comes, therefore, as no great surprise. The story was the usual one. The regular 'keeper failed to show up for a game and Higuita went between the posts and did the business. It was for his goalkeeping that Millonarios of Bogota originally employed Higuita, who, judging from his indulgences, is obviously still a frustrated outfield player. He turns out infrequently in midfield for his present club, Nacional in Medellin for whom he also takes the penalties.

Unfortunately for him, Colombia and everyone watching the South Americans at the World Cup, the great dream of Italy was not realised. Colombia were not awarded a penalty and Higuita's abberation prevented them reaching the shoot-out stage against Cameroon. The sight of the long-haired moustachioed maverick striding up from one end of the field to convert a penalty at the other was thus denied.

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JOE MERCER: The game's most genial giant

THE great thing about Joe Mercer, who died on his 76th birthday, was that the anecdotes he inspired did not need embellishment.

One favourite tale concerned the day, during his managerial spell at Villa Park, when Aston Villa were 3-0 down at half-time. The players slunk back to the dressing room to await the manager's wrath.

They waited and waited. Finally Mercer put his head round the door. "You got yourselves into this mess," he told them, "you get yourselves out." And he shut the door. Villa recovered to win 4-3 and the legend of Joe Mercer was further enhanced.

Mercer was, for more than 50 years, one of the most respected and liked men in a sport not known for an over-abundance of such characters. He was successively leading player, top manager, TV pundit and, briefly, a director.

He was also one of only seven men who have played in and managed League championship-winning sides and during his playing career won every honour soccer had to offer. As a manager he guided Manchester City through the most successful spell in their history and was an instant hit during his brief spell in charge of the full England team. His forthright opinions enlivened many a televised debate and he maintained his interest in the game as a director of Coventry.

Born at Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, on August 9, 1914, Mercer signed for Everton as an amateur in 1931. The great Dixie Dean told him: "You've a pair of legs that wouldn't last the postman his morning round," but Mercer's famous bowed, spindly legs were to carry him on a playing career which did not end until just before his 40th birthday.

He made his First Division debut on 1933 and was a member of the Everton team which won the championship in 1938-39. As a left-half he won five England caps and would have added many more to his collection but for the war.

By the time the war was over, Mercer's career in top-class soccer seemed to be in doubt. In 1946, at the age of 31, he was out of the Everton first team, had knee trouble and had asked for a transfer. He was seriously considering retirement, but Arsenal manager Tom Whittaker persuaded him to go to Highbury. The transfer fee was £7,000 and so began an exciting new phase in Mercer's life.

Repeated

When he joined Arsenal, they were second from bottom in the First Division, They avoided relegation and the following season Mercer captained them to the championship, a feat which he repeated in 1952-3.

In between, Mercer also led them to an FA Cup final success against Liverpool in 1950. Arsenal were at Wembley again two years later but were hit by injuries and lost by the only goal to Newcastle. In 1954 came the accident which was to finish him as a player. He was four months short of his 40th birthday and was playing as well as ever, but broke a leg in a collision with team mate Joe Wade during a match against Liverpool at Highbury.

After several comeback attempts, Mercer was forced to admit defeat and in 1955 he became manager of Sheffield United.

His managerial career did not begin auspiciously – Sheffield United were relegated at the end of his first season in charge. In 1958 Mercer was strongly tipped to return to Highbury as manager of Arsenal, but instead took over at Aston Villa. They too were relegated but returned to the First Division after one season thanks to the attacking power of Peter McParland and Gerry Hitchens.

He left Villa in 1964 and was out of football for around 14 months before accepting the manager's job at Manchester City. In five years he led City to the Second Division title, League championship, FA Cup and European Cup-winners' Cup.

These successes were achieved in partnership with Malcolm Allison, whom Mercer brought to Maine Road as coach. But in 1972 Allison was appointed team manager and the board wanted to move Mercer "upstairs".

Returned

Instead, Mercer went to Coventry as general manager, forming a new partnership with team manager Gordon Milne. When Sir Alf Ramsey was sacked as England manager in 1974, Mercer was the man the FA turned to. They asked him to run the international team in a caretaker capacity until a permanent appointment was made.

He was in charge for seven matches, which included an unbeaten tour of Eastern Europe. He then returned to Coventry and was awarded an OBE in 1976 for services to soccer.

Ron Greenwood, who once played against Mercer and later managed the England team himself, was "surprised and saddened" to hear of his death. Greenwood said: "Dear old Joe was one of the game's characters, not only a great player but a very successful manager and a fine person. He was always a good companion and a fine after dinner speaker.

"I still cherish the memory of playing against him when I was a lad and with Chelsea and he was playing for Aldershot during his war-time service.

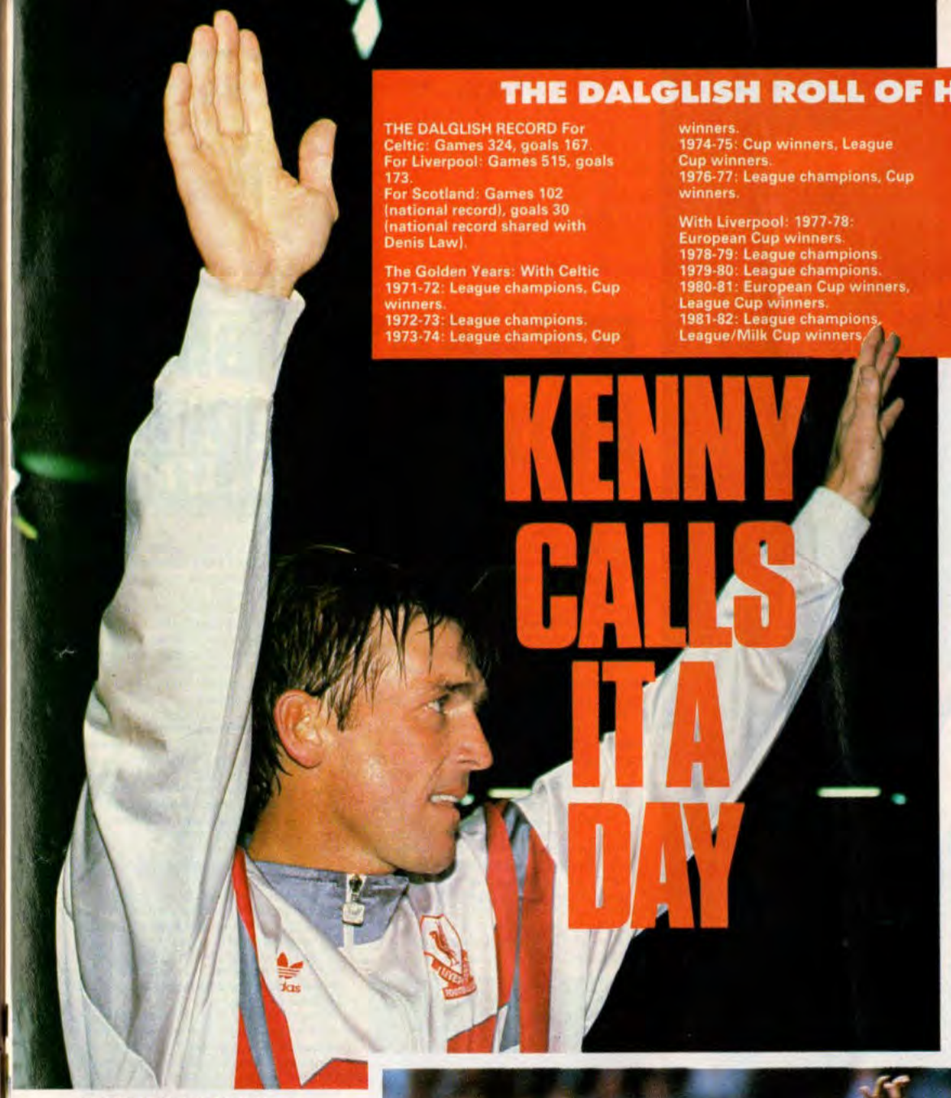
"There were lots of characters when Joe was a player and manager, but he was one everyone remembered – as a player, a manager and a person. He took over as England manager from Alf Ramsey, then handed over to Don Revie, but he deserved to manage England in his own right and his partnership with Malcolm Allison was good for both men and good for football."

Respected

England manager Graham Taylor said: "Joe was a wonderful man and achieved the almost impossible by being popular with all sectors of the game. It was always a pleasure to be in his company. Joe enjoyed telling, and I enjoyed listening, to his fascinating football stories. He was a highly respected figure and an honourable man, I always found him very approachable. He was an inspirational player who excelled at first division and international level."

Lawrie McMenemy, Taylor's number two, added: "Joe's death is a sad loss. When I first started in management he was a senior figure alongside Bill Shankly, Harry Catterick, Don Revie and Jock Stein. They were always there if you wanted to ask for advice. Joe always reminded us that the job could be done with a sense of humour. He was loved by managers, players and public alike."

One of Joe Mercer's proudest moments – after the FA Cup victory over Liverpool in 1950.



KENNY CALLS IT A DAY

THE DALGLISH ROLL OF HONOUR

THE DALGLISH RECORD For Celtic: Games 324, goals 167. For Liverpool: Games 515, goals 173.
For Scotland: Games 102 (national record), goals 30 (national record shared with Denis Law).

The Golden Years: With Celtic
1971-72: League champions, Cup winners.
1972-73: League champions.
1973-74: League champions, Cup winners.
1974-75: Cup winners, League Cup winners.
1976-77: League champions, Cup winners.

With Liverpool: 1977-78: European Cup winners.
1978-79: League champions.
1979-80: League champions.
1980-81: European Cup winners, League Cup winners.
1981-82: League champions, League/Milk Cup winners.
1982-83: League champions, League/Milk Cup winners.
1983-84: League champions, European Cup winners, League/Milk Cup winners.
1985-86 (as player-manager): League champions, FA Cup winners.
1987-88 (as manager): League champions.
1988-89 (as manager): FA Cup winners.
1989-90 (as manager): League champions.

KENNY DALGLISH has finally hung up his boots after a glorious playing career spanning 22 years at the highest level with Celtic, Liverpool and Scotland.

At 39 he reckons he is no longer good enough even to hold himself in reserve for the country's most successful club and is to concentrate solely on managing the team.

He bade himself an emotional farewell at Anfield in his testimonial match against Real Sociedad, insisting: "This is definitely my last appearance." Dalglish had confirmed his decision a week earlier in Sweden, where he was leading the League champions through their pre- season tour of Scandinavia.

He said: "I can't think of a finer place than Anfield to pick to call it a day. You can only kid yourself for so long. I am the type who has always believed that actions speak louder than words, but when I came on against Derby at the end of last season I realised I could no longer do myself justice on the pitch.

"I have been thinking about it ever since and I am still going through it in my mind but now I have made the decision. I am going to sign off as a player at Anfield.

"I dread to think what would have happened to my life if I had not come to Liverpool. It was the only place I ever wanted to go to from Celtic and 13 years on I'm still grateful they asked me. My playing career has taken a huge chunk out of my family's life.

"When I came on as substitute against Derby I was just being selfish really but the championship had already been won. The No.7 jersey has come to mean so much to me at Liverpool and to wear it for the last time at Anfield will mean more than I can say."

Dalglish was born in Glasgow on March 4, 1951. His first appearance in the Celtic first team was in 1968. He established himself in the side two years later. From 1971 to 1985 he was involved in Celtic and Liverpool sides that won at least one major honour every season except one.

He was transferred to Liverpool for £440,000 in 1977. Bob Paisley, the manager who bought him and still with the club as a director after an association of more than 50 years, said he was the best player he had ever seen in a Liverpool shirt.

He was appointed player-manager in 1985, the day after the Heysel Tragedy, and in his first season led the club to the classic championship-FA Cup double. Over the last three years he has made only occasional appearances, registering as a non- contract player for emergencies. His last competitive appearance was in May on the night Liverpool were presented with the championship trophy.

He has been voted Footballer of the Year twice and carried off the Manager of the Year award three times. He has a record 102 caps for Scotland and shares with Denis Law his country's scoring record with 30 goals.

Typical Dalglish – style, commitment, flair and total control.

DANGER

Paul Parker came "under fire" from his squad-mates after breaking Press Silence.

The Brian Glanville COLUMN

WHEN England's finest bombarded Paul Parker with empty Coca-Cola cans and the like through the windows of their coach, in Bologna after training, you might say they were making a statement.

The essence of which, quite clearly, was that they wanted nothing to do with the Press, and wanted the amiable and more courteous Parker to have nothing to do with them, either.

Some days earlier, in Cagliari, I had asked why the players could not try to discriminate between the vultures of the pop papers, newsmen who stop – dehumanised? – at nothing, and the football journalists who play no part in such excesses. David Bloomfield, the FA Press liaison officer, had replied that the players had reacted emotionally.

I declare an interest here. The late and much lamented Jimmy Bloomfield, father of David and a footballer of renown, an Arsenal inside-forward and Leicester City manager, was a friend of mine. His name and fame were made in days long before our spoiled and under-talented footballers made colossal salaries. He was a delight, both as a player and as a person. Can one imagine him throwing rubbish out of a coach window at a team-mate? No.

Things improved after that. Or, to be more precise, after England's surprising win over Belgium, through that superb goal by David Platt.

Some have blamed Bloomfield junior, a gentle soul who could hardly have been expected to crack the whip in such circumstances, for the rift. Other officials travelling with the team also came in for some criticism.

But when players want to impose what the Italians call Silenzio Stampa, otherwise Press Silence, there isn't very much anyone else can do; and in this World Cup, it was being imposed somewhere or other all the time.

Ivica Osim, incensed at the way he was being treated by the Yugoslav Press, banned a journalist from the training camp, with the approval of his own football federation. The Italian players, fed up to the gills with the endless bombardment of questions at their open sessions from TV reporters, Press and radio men, briefly imposed a Press Silence of their own a few days before the quarter-finals.

Jackie Charlton refused to answer a question from Eamonn Dunphy, the former Ireland and Millwall inside-forward, asserting that he wasn't a journalist, which doesn't happen to be true. And so on.

I do not think it matters a toss whether a team refuse to talk to the Press or not. Italy proved as much in 1982 in Spain. A particularly vicious story was run in an Italian paper casting doubts on the liaison between two of the players who were sharing a room. The players, incensed, imposed Press Silence. Poor little Gigi Peronace would have had a fit.

Gigi was the little Calabrian who leaped on to the band wagon – an ex-player agent, he was – when Italy were drawn in the same World Cup qualifying group with England in 1976. Speaking English, he became Enzo Bearzot's guide dog, philosopher, interpreter and, when in London, inseparable friend.

How hard ebullient little Gigi worked to build bridges between players and Press! How well he set up his Press Conferences, every single day, at the Hindu Club, 20 miles out of the centre of Buenos Aires, in the 1978 World Cup! And how, Heaven knows, the Italian Press abused it! Then one fine morning they behaved so badly and arrogantly – I was there – that the following day, when the reporters arrived, it was to find the players visible only behind glass partitions, soundless and remote, like characters in a film by Antonioni.

Victory

In 1982, with no Press to bother them, the Italians sailed on to a splendid victory! And England? Provocation there was – though from the news rather than the sporting side of the Press – but it has to be said that before the team ever kicked a ball in Italy, most of them were behaving like spoiled and sulky children.

In Tunis, at a reception, a colleague of mine described them "sitting in line on a wall, not saying a word, and not a smile between the lot of them." There were honourable exceptions; Gary Lineker, one of nature's undoubted gentlemen, Peter Shilton, Trevor Steven (so shamefully ignored for so long in the World Cup), Tony Dorigo.

What was there to sulk about? A poorish Press after the match against Uruguay? Incursions by the murkier tabloids into Bobby Robson's private life? But the scene was set, the hostile attitude had been adopted, so that when the dirt did indeed begin to hit the fan, a pre-disposition existed.

There was the affair of Isabella The Hostess, which showed up The Rotters at their worst. The Rotters is the nickname given by the football journalists to those of their colleagues who are sent out on what might be called The Hooligan Beat, with a general brief to dig up whatever dirt they can.

Whether Isabella slept with four, 24 or 104 footballers is of no interest to me. The general belief in Cagliari was that the poor girl was wholly innocent. But I am a Mrs Patrick Campbell man – the Shavian actress who said, immortally: "I don't care what they do, so long as they don't do it in the streets and frighten the horses." I don't give a damn about Bobby Robson's private life. Who cares? Nor have I the smallest interest in the extra-curricular activities of the England players. It is what they do or do not do on the field which exercises me. Isabella was viciously persecuted by reporters plying a kind of journalism which might properly be described as dehumanised.

The American philosopher-journalist H.L. Mencken remarked, nearly 70 years ago, that nobody ever went broke under-estimating public taste. Yet there are dangers in store. This kind of gutter journalism can be exploited and used by the enemies of a free Press, of which there are so many, to gag, censor and impede genuine investigative journalism. The bad drives out the good.

Scandals

Gutter journalism could bring about all too easily a situation in which investigation of political and financial scandals can be knocked on the head. Already the so-called Right of Reply has been imposed in some quarters by frightened newspapers as a kind of Cheats' Charter.

Greed and hypocrisy have been isolated by angry journalists in Italy as qualities shown by the English players. Again, the case is strong. All very well to throw a cup half full of water at Paul Parker for daring to talk to the Press, but what moral right have you to do that if you are one of those being paid large sums by a tabloid newspaper for your ghosted views on the game? It was especially displeasing to find Paul Gascoigne involved in that trivial, tiresome incident. Gascoigne, as a colleague remarked to me, has every reason to thank the Press for his elevation to the purple. Or the white.

I was one of those perpetually pleading his cause, at a time when Bobby Robson was damning him with faint praise, pushing him out on the wing in the B team, rebuking him for a couple of minor errors in the B match at Millwall when he had been the best player afield, virtually pointing a gun at his head when he was belatedly picked to play against the Czechs. And, as it transpired, to play superlatively.

Then the Hoddle Story was repeated, another Road to Damascus conversion, with Robson solemnly telling Press conferences that players with Gazza's flair were badly needed to open up the packed defences of a World Cup. How right he was. And what a hell of a long time it took to get round to acknowledging as much.

Gratitude, acknowledgement, is the last thing one ever wants from any player. For me, the only and ultimate reward has been to see this wonderfully talented, often inspired, young man doing such delightful things in an England shirt, displaying a repertoire of skills, a courage, a

IN THE GUTTER

Bad journalism drives out good

perseverance, which made him one of the outstanding players of the tournament, just as one so fervently hoped he would be.

But Gazza is a simple soul, perhaps easily led. And with all deference to David Platt, I, as a connoisseur of Northern comedians, from Robb Wilton, through Tommy Handley, Al Read down to Ken Dodd, would never book him for a show. He tries too hard, and he hasn't got the script writers. Even Eric Morecambe needed Eddie Braben.

STRANGE and fascinating that after eight years sturdily holding out against the very idea of a sweeper defence, Bobby Robson should suddenly and surprisingly have decided to deploy one, against Holland. Panic? Desperation? An unconscious desire to keep the increasingly vulnerable Terry Butcher in the team, at any cost? Who can say? The irony was that Holland did not, as Robson expected, use Kieft and Van Basten through the middle, at least for most of the game,but stuck Gilhaus out on the left flank, turning Butcher, so left-footed, into a virtual right-back.

In the Belgian match, the sweeper was used again, and again was hardly essential. Robson said it was; against such players as De Gryse and Ceulemans. But Dre Gyse, till he was taken off the field after a thoroughly unproductive evening, was virtually the sole striker, with Ceulemans and Scifo simply moving up out of a packed midfield. England could well have used another man in their own midfield.

Offside

Tactics are as good as the players you have to deploy them. Belgium's were ultimately self-defeating. They simply did not get enough men forward. True, they twice struck posts, but against that Barnes had a goal disallowed for offside, missed a sitter, and Lineker missed another. Then Platt made up for it all with that devastating strike; the first thing of any consequence he had done in an England shirt, but a glorious vindication in itself.

Carlos Bilardo has boasted that the world game at large has followed the pattern he introduced in Mexico in 1986, but it is not factually correct, and in any case, I have my doubts about the pattern. By and large it certainly did not work for the lucky Argentine team who, as I suspected, owed their long run to the fitful genius, and the ever-present arm, of little Diego Maradona. How foolish Bilardo was not to do his worm-turn earlier, stand up to Maradona, and insist that Ramon Diaz be in the under-talented party.

And was he wrong ultimately to stand up to Maradona and refuse to include the man he had dragged out of mothballs, Jorge Valdano? Valdano may be 33, but as we saw, age seemed to have little or no bearing on the performance of players, even in so hot and humid an Italian summer.

BACK for a moment to tactics. The Brazilian sweeper system will now quite clearly be consigned to the rubbish bin of history, but though it unquestionably failed Lazaroni in the end, let us note that sheer bad luck rather than anything else robbed the Brazilians of a merited victory against Argentina.

Note too that not long before the World Cup, Tele Santana, manager of Brazil in the previous two tournaments, gave an interview in which he said that he had thought of introducing a sweeper in Mexico, but did not have the courage.

Pele and Zagalo, heroes of the past, rained down their wrath on the hapless Lazaroni, who has probably been fortunate to retain his managerial contract with Fiorentina (just in time to learn that Dunga is to join Juventus). But what moral right had Zagalo to pitch into Lazaroni when one remembers what an antipathetic team he took to West Germany in 1974, when apart from its bruising tactics in defence, it had so little to offer but the occasional decisive free-kick by Rivelino? ...

TALKING of South Americans, their Press, in Italy, was Something Else. One morning on a Press coach in Rome I sat in front of a noisy elderly River Plate journalist – no disrespect to such urbane and cultivated figures as Juvenal of Buenos Aires and Franklin Morales of Montevideo. We were passing by the river, along the Lungotevere, when the old man croaked, "This is the River Po." A pause, till a companion, sitting behind him, observed "I think that it's the Tiber."

TALKING of stones that the builder rejected and all that, what of little Toto Schillaci, the Sicilian who seemed gone for ever from the Italian team after his dud performance – among those of many others – against Greece in Perugia? He was only in because Giampiero Boniperti wanted him in, we were told.

At Coverciano training centre, Fiorentina fans covered him with insults. He had had to endure the abuse of racialist Northern crowds, jeering about his brother, caught bang to rights in Palermo, stealing motor car tyres.

Until on came Schillaci against Austria, in went that Rossi- like headed goal, and the fact became clear that he is divinely blessed with the Big Match Temperament.

Valdano, Argentina's "ageless" wonder put many younger men to shame in Italy.

David Platt's devastating goal against Belgium proved he is a player of real international class.

Enzo Scifo has revived his career with Auxerre.

CLUB FOCUS

ROUX BOYS PUT AJA ON MAP OF EUROPE

TRADITION decrees that French club sides are rarely sufficiently hardy to survive the rigorous winter of the early rounds of European competition. Yet last season provided an opportunity to celebrate as Marseille, Monaco and Auxerre all reached the quarter-final stage.

Since gaining their passport to the French First Division in 1980, the small-town club of Auxerre has developed into one of the leading lights on the country's footballing scene, finishing out of the top ten on only one occasion (1982). Moreover, this decade of consistency has been achieved by a team composed almost exclusively of 'rejects' from other clubs and products of the club's junior ranks such as internationals Jean-Marc Ferreri, Eric Cantona and Basile Boli.

BY NICK BIDWELL

This past spring, amazingly for a club based in a town of just 40,000 inhabitants and who at the beginning of the 1960s were playing in the local Burgundy league, progress to the last eight of the UEFA Cup marked another step forward in their inexorable rise of prominence.

Far from playing down Auxerre's achievement – they were only the fifth French side of have attained this stage of the UEFA Cup – it is however undeniable that their European campaign had benefitted from a kindly draw. Opponents of the ilk of Dinamo Zagreb, Apollonia Fier of Albania, the Finns of Rovaniemi and Olympiakos are hardly names to instill fear. Indeed, the club would not have been in Europe at all had not Albania failed to take up the spot left vacant by the suspended Nentori, forcing Auxerre to meet Dinamo Zagreb in a preliminary round play-off a year ago.

Against the Yugoslavs, the Burgundy club's hopes were almost stillborn following a disappointing 1-0 home defeat in the first leg. But in a remarkable recovery, two goals by Otokore, from the Ivory Coast, and another by Hungarian international Kalman Kovaks, clinched the most unexpected of victories.

Main protagonist and creator of two goals in that reversal of fortunes was the newly-signed Italo-Belgian midfield star, Enzo Scifo. He was just beginning the onerous resurrection of a promising career blighted by two mediocre seasons wearing the colours of Internazionale and Bordeaux. Unwanted by the latter, Scifo declared in an interview with L'Equipe that he would gladly sign for Auxerre (who possessed only two out of their alloted three foreigners) and that in order to do so he was willing to considerably lower his financial demands. Sensing a golden opportunity, Auxerre moved in to capture their man.

Association de la Jeunesse d'Auxerre, or AJA as the club is commonly known, was founded in 1905 as a gymnastics club by a local priest, the Abbe Deschamps, whose name was given to the team's compact little stadium on his death in 1950. A few months after its acrobatic beginnings a football team was organised and the side was to remain in the anonymity of regional leagues until the early 1960s.

The watershed of the Auxerre success story coincided with the arrival as manager in 1961 of a man who has dedicated 28 years of his life to building a team and a club capable of rubbing shoulders with the mighty in France and Europe.

That man is coach and general manager Guy Roux, a round-faced soccer fanatic, whose often controversial comments on all facets of the game give him an aspect of a Gallic Brian Clough. The omnipresent Roux has become something of a legend in French football, often portrayed by the media as the tyrannical disciplinarian invariably seen patrolling the town at night in a bid to apprehend any players who have been deemed to break curfew, or as the spokesman for French managers, leading the fight to prevent their foreign counterparts from plying their trade in France without the requisite diplomas

Obsessed

Beyond these extremes, Roux is a man obsessed with football, a coach who thinks nothing of travelling the world with the aim of assimilating new ideas to aid his club, the devoted club-man, who in the early days washed the kit and marked out the pitch and who later was virtually a 'father figure' to future internationals Ferreri and Boli when they lodged at Roux's home on their arrival at Auxerre.

From the outset, Roux and his president, Jean-Claude Hamel, began to meticulously reorganise the club, placing particular emphasis on discovering and nurturing young talent.

"Because of our limited finances we chose to produce our own players rather than spending huge amounts on transfers," says Hamel with irrefutable logic.

Tangible evidence of the success of such a philosophy can be found in the number of 'Made in Auxerre' youngsters who have graduated to full international honours. Not by chance have Ferreri, Cantona, Boli, Martini and Prunier, who all went to the club as teenagers, subsequently emerged as fully-fledged stars of the French game.

Of the 13 players utilised in their third round UEFA Cup tie against Olympiakos no fewer than ten had worked their passage through Auxerre's youth sides. Roux is justly proud of the achievements of his one-time apprentices, and points out that promising young players now opt for AJA rather than the great battalions of French soccer. The reason? Simply the team from Burgundy can offer a prospective recruit an amazing 75 per cent chance of obtaining an eventual first-team spot.

By 1970 – nine years after he had brought his new broom to a sleepy town more celebrated for its wine production – Roux's team gained promotion to the third division with a side composed of the club's schoolboy class of 1961. At this time Auxerre began to receive the funds required to enlarge the ground and improve its training facilities.

Provider of the finance was new town mayor, Jean-Paul Soisson, a former player with AJA and son of the club's president in the early 1940's. Although not able to proffer the vast sums that mayors Chirac and Chaban-Delmas bequeath to Paris Saint-Germain and Bordeaux, this municipal monetary assistance was very much a shot-in-the-arm for the developing club.

Four years later Auxerre won promotion to the second division and to strengthen his squad the ever-imaginative Roux was at work creating what was dubbed as the club's 'Polish Connection'. Players such as goalkeeper Marjan Szeja and tricky winger Josef Klose were brought to provincial France with a mixture of hard currency and sporting goods and constituted experienced and cost-effective additions to the team's development.

As a legacy of these deals, Roux came to enjoy privileged relations with the authorities in Warsaw and in subsequent years fellow Polish internationals Wieczorek, Janas and World Cup star Andrej Szarmach were all to make the same trek to Burgundy.

Szeja, Klose, journalist cum footballer Serge Mesones and former Saint-Etienne striker Jean-Marc Schaer were all to the fore as Auxerre bathed in the media spotlight of their finest hour when they reached the 1979 French Cup final. In the two-leg semi-final AJA had already created an upset of gargantuan proportions by defeating League winners Strasbourg and now they had to face Nantes, one of the nation's premier schools of football.

Nantes, including future France manager Henri Michel and star international defender Maxime Bossis, took an early lead through Pecout and seemed set fair for a comfortable stroll. No respecters of hierarchy, Auxerre refused to surrender and equalised in the second period thanks to a header from Mesones. Yet despite a performance to be proud of, the evidently exhausted minnows leaked three goals during extra-time to give the score an excessively unjust look.

Stephane Mazzolini is so versatile.

Bruno Martini

Fresh from their sporting heroics and propaganda victory at the Parc des Princes, Roux's men duly won the second division crown in 1980 and with it their ticket to the elite. The nettle of professionalism was promptly grasped, but even then in a show of typical Auxerre prudence, each contract contained a clause specifying that in the case of relegations players could return to their old jobs.

So-called experts held little hope for the newcomers, but benefitting from substantial contributions of new signings Joel Bats, midfielder Gerard Lanthier and the surprise Polish emigre, Andrej Szarmach, the team completed their inaugural season in a creditable tenth place.

Roux's cloak-and-dagger acquisition of Szarmach from Stal Mielac represented another inspired transfer deal. During his four years in Burgundy the Polish centre forward scored no less than 96 goals and served as an exemplary professional for the many youngsters around him.

Their highest-ever League placing of third in 1984 meant a first taste of European competition in the UEFA Cup, but John Toshack's Sporting Lisbon immediately sent the Frenchmen back to the domestic drawing board. Back in the UEFA Cup the following season, AJA again had to endure first round elimination as a Mark Hateley-inspired Milan emerged victors and the old French proverb of 'never two without three' was confirmed in 1987 when they bowed out of Europe in an autumn loss to Panathinaikos.

Despite that triple setback, Roux's club has remained one of the most consistent sides in France, a hard-working side with a traditionally solid back-four and an inclination towards a lightning counter-attacking style. Forced to live on an annual budget of just £2.7 million – the smallest in the French First Division – and gates of 9,000, it is inevitable that the club has had to sell its principal performers in order to replenish its dwindling coffers.

Lured

Thus Joel Bats moved to Paris Saint-Germain in the summer of 1985, to be followed a year later by midfield starlet, Jean-Marc Ferreri, who was lured to Bordeaux for a then French record transfer of £1.6 million. In 1988 the Auxerre bank balance received another boost when Marseille smashed the Ferreri fee by paying £2.2 million for Eric Cantona.

Yet in spite of losing the likes of Bats, Ferreri and Cantona, continuity of results has been maintained by the regular injection of a new generation of Roux protegés. And when current team notables Martini, Vahirua and Cocard succumb to the probable lure of fatter contracts elsewhere, no doubt France's foremost academy will have cultivated its latest crop of talent to replace them.

Bats rightly says that 'Auxerre is virtually one hundred per cent Guy Roux'. Never lacking in stamina, perseverance and innovation, the forthright Roux has succeeded in creating a model club in an area with no pedigree in football.

If France's bid to host the 1998 World Cup finals comes to fruition the Auxerre manager hopes that the refurbishment and modernisation of his club's ground will render the Burgundy town as a potential centre for the last tournament of the century. Twenty-five years ago the thought of the 250th French town by population hosting a World Cup match would have engendered derision. Now, courtesy of the missionary zeal of Guy Roux, that dream is distinctly within the realms of possibility.

CONTINUED OVER

AUXERRE

CONTINUED

THE MANAGER
Guy ROUX. Aged 51 (born October 18, 1938). The long-serving player and coach without whom AJA would still be provincial nobodies.

THE PLAYERS
Bruno MARTINI. Goalkeeper. Aged 28 (born January 25, 1962). Began his career as understudy to Joel Bats, before being loaned by Auxerre to Nancy in 1984. At Michel Platini's old club he won rave reviews for his agility and sure-handling and returned to Burgundy a year later as replacement for the Paris Saint-Germain- bound Bats. Made his full international debut for France as substitute against West Germany in 1987.

Lionel CHARBONNIER. Goalkeeper. Aged 23 (born October 25, 1966). Youth product.

Frederic DARRAS. Defender. Aged 24 (born August 19, 1966). This solid full-back joined the club as an apprentice in 1981 and went on to make his first-team debut against Toulouse five years later. Auxerre's primary right-back for the past three seasons.

William PRUNIER. Defender. Aged 23 (born August 14, 1967). An uncompromising stopper, whose great strength lies with his aerial ability in defence or at set-pieces. Another pure Auxerre product, Prunier effected his full debut for France in a 2-0 friendly defeat at the hands of Arsenal last year.

Michel CATALANO. Defender. Aged 20 (born November 4, 1959). An overlapping left-back, who learnt his trade as a midfielder with his local club, Lens. A rare Auxerre domestic recruit, he signed for Guy Roux's men in 1988.

Alain ROCHE. Right back. Aged 22 (born October 14, 1967). French international signed this summer from Marseille in the part- exchange deal which took Basile Boli to the champions. Roche had moved to Marseille from Bordeaux only the previous year. He was one of two new caps (Christian Perez was the other) called up by Michel Platini for his international managerial debut – the 3-2 World Cup defeat in Yugoslavia in the autumn of 1988. Roche came through the Bordeaux youth system but his expulsion two seasons ago in a UEFA Cup third round defeat by Napoli raised doubts about his international temperament.

Stephane MAHE. Defender. Aged 21 (born September 23, 1968). Auxerre youth product.

Cristophe MESSAGER. Defender. Aged 24 (born February 15, 1966). Youth product recalled after a loan with Beauvais.

Franck RABARIVONY. Defender. Aged 19 (born November 11, 1970). Youth product.

Zbigniew KACZMAREK. Midfield. Aged 28 (born June 1, 1962). Poland international signed during the summer from army club Legia Warsaw to replace Hamburg-bound, Waldemar Matysik, his compatriot.

Stephane MAZZOLINI. Defender/ midfielder. Aged 23 (born November 28, 1966). Yet another of Guy Roux's youth team graduates, the versatile Mazzolini can perform anywhere in the back-four or as a marker in midfield.

Raphael GUERREIRO. Midfielder. Aged 22 (born April 11, 1968). Omnipresent young midfield battler, who possesses an excellent shot, Guerreiro is the latest of Auxerre's young lions to make an impression in the First Division.

Daniel DUTUEL. Midfielder. Aged 22 (born December 10, 1967). Stylish right-sided playmaker, who became an Auxerre mainstay during the 1986-87 term. A French Under-21 international.

Enzo SCIFO. Midfielder. Aged 23 (born February 19, 1966). Revived his career to such effect that he was one of the stars of Italia '90. The son of Sicilian emigrants to Belgium, Scifo made his name as a teenage prodigy at Anderlecht and subsequently opted for Belgian citizenship on the eve of the 1984 European Championships. In 1987 the slight but extremely gifted midfield general was transferred to Internazionale. At the San Siro, however, he plainly struggled and last year was loaned to Bordeaux, where his erratic form improved little. Unwanted by the Girondin club, he was the subject to a shock summer move to Auxerre, where he seems to he enjoying his football once more.

Kalman KOVACS. Forward. Aged 24 (born December 9, 1965). An intelligent and mobile striker, Kovacs was bought by Roux in the close season of last year from Honved of Budapest, who he had just helped to a League and Cup double. After an uncertain beginning in French football, he is finally starting to show his true worth and scored the vital qualifying goal which beat Olympiakos in the third round of last season's UEFA Cup. A regular Hungarian international during their unsuccessful World Cup qualifying campaign.

Pascal VAHIRUA. Forward. Aged 24 (born March 9, 1966). One of the club's most precious jewels, the Tahiti-born Vahirua is a key element of the Auxerre counter-attacking game. Blessed with terrific pace and able to operate on either wing, he also has that commendable knack of scoring vital goals. Made his Auxerre debut in 1984.

Christophe COCARD. Forward. Aged 22 (born November 23, 1967). Multi-talented attacker equally adept as goal maker or as the archetypal finisher. Arrived at Auxerre in June 1987 from

third division Evreux. After just 40 games in the top-flight, national boss Michel Platini gave him his debut for France against Yugoslavia in April last year.

Didier OTOKORE. Forward. Aged 21 (born March 26, 1969). Generally the team's substitute, who is introduced to invariably grab a goal. An apprentice at the club since 1985, his trademark is spectacular goals, such as the acrobatic bicycle kick which he converted against last season's UEFA opponents, Rovaniemi.

Jean-Luc COURTET. Forward. Aged 22 (born April 9, 1968). Signed three years ago from INF Vichy.

Richard N'JOCK. Forward. Aged 21 (born October 17, 1968). Born Lyon and signed last year from provincial side Saint-Priest.

Franco VIGNOLA. Forward. Aged 23 (born September 15, 1966). Youth product.

Franck SOLER. Forward. Aged 19 (Born October 3, 1970). Youth product.

Auxerre 1990-91

ITALY STILL THE BIG SPENDERS

BY JONATHAN SHALLARD

THROUGHOUT Europe the summer war cry is the same: Spend, spend, spend.

It's the compulsory state of affairs for all the top clubs in most countries, since a majority prohibit transfers in mid-season and thus the wheeler-dealing takes place immediately the last cup finals, the last titles and the last promotion and relegations places have been settled.

Nor is there any likelihood of the round of frantic high-spending being curbed. As European Community legislation steadily erodes foreigner-limitation controls, so clubs will go on increasing their spending and spreading their nets wider and wider throughout not only Europe and South American but deeper into Africa.

Juventus set a world record this summer by paying Fiorentina £8 million for Italian World Cup hero Roberto Baggio. But, in the current climate of superstar over-valuations, it is unlikely that record will hold much more than a year.

Italian clubs, of course, lead the big-spenders. In these columns before we have noted how the Italian transfer market reaches such a frenzy of buying, selling and lending that at the end of it all there are club officials bemused at the identities of some of the players they have acquired.

Cash-only

Very few Italian deals are cash-only. Many involve part-exchange or integrated loan arrangements. But these are features which can be organised only within a country. Foreign clubs want cash-only for their stars and sooner or later international transfer fee regulations will have to be set down for all deals –not just those, as at the moment, which involve players whose contracts have expired.

Baggio was not, of course, the only capture by a Juventus club desperate to challenge the Milano-Napoli stranglehold on the Italian league.

Baggio has been joined at Juve by West German midfielder Thomas Haessler (£5.5million) from Koln, by Brazil defender Julio Cesar from Montpellier and by Italian World Cup midfielder Fernando de Napoli from Napoli.

Juve's promoted neighbours Torino have prised Spanish World Cup star Rafael Martin Vazquez away from Real Madrid while Uruguayan Enzo Francescoli, formerly of River Plate, Paris Saint-Germain and Marseille, has moved to Cagliari and Brazilian goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel, Sweden's Tomas Brolin and Belgium's Georges Grun have joined fellow promotees Parma.

Fiorentina have used the Baggio cash to bring in Romanian striker Marius Lacatus to fire the bullets provided by Czechoslovak Lubos Kubik and Brazil's Dunga.

The Big Two from San Siro, Milan and Inter, will be presenting few new faces. Internazionale, after all, can hardly do better than keep faith with World Cup-winners Lothar Matthaus, Andy Brehme and Jurgen Klinsmann.

Meanwhile European champions Milan have welcomed back a fit (at last!) Ruud Gullit, a refreshed Marco Van Basten and a humbled Frank Rijkaard.

In Spain Real Madrid put their faith in Romanian star Gheorghe Hagi to wipe away any regrets over the loss of Martin Vazquez and over-the-hill Bernd Schuster, while Yugoslav stopper Predrag Spasic replaces Argentine World Cup Finalist Oscar Ruggeri. Other midfield additions are Zaragoza's World Cup man Francisco Villaroya and Barcelona's can't-wait-to-get-away Luis Milla.

English clubs have dabbled in the international market. Arsenal have signed Sweden's Anders Limpar from Cremonese and QPR landed Czechoslovakia's Jan Stejskal to replace Arsenal-bound goalkeeper David Seaman. Sergei Gotsmanov joins fellow Soviet Alexei Cherednik at Southampton while Israeli striker Ronny Rosenthal is now a fully-contracted member of the Liverpool machine.

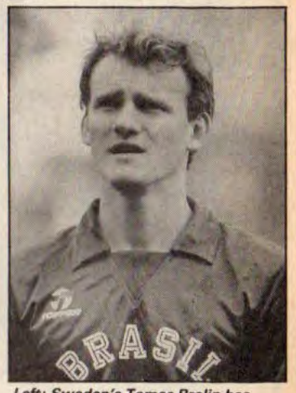
Scotland's Rangers picked up injury-jinxed former England striker Mark Hateley from Monaco. But most of the international movement involving France has been the other way.

Marseille appear to have struck gold with the Yugoslav World Cup midfielder Dragan Stojkovic. But spending big is no guarantee of success. Bordeaux, runners-up last season, sacked coach Raymond Goethals after failing to win any of their first three matches despite purchasing Dutch striker Wim Kieft and Belgian midfielder Patrick Vervoort. Kieft had replaced Caen-bound Dutchman Pieter Van Boer and West German veteran Klaus Allofs –who had returned home to Werder Bremen.

At Bremen he steps into the boots of Karl-Heinz Riedle, who has moved south to join Lazio in Italy.

International soccer is truly a circle game.

Roberto Baggio, the world's most expensive player, cost Juventus £8 million.



Left: Sweden's Tomas Brolin has joined newly-promoted Parma,

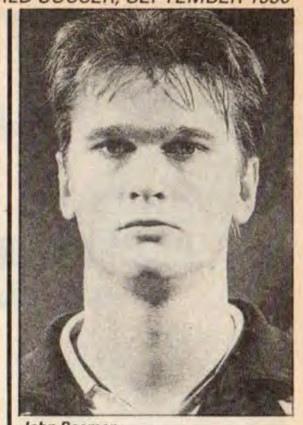
Taffarel (above), the Brazilian goalkeeper who followed Brolin to Parma.

TURN OVER

ON THE MOVE

Many leading European clubs have been busy during the summer as WORLD SOCCER'S unique transfer A-Z proves...

Juan Cayasso.



John Bosman.

TOP ENGLISH SUMMER TRANSFERS

Dalian ATKINSON Sheff Wed to Real Sociedad £1,700,000
Dennis WISE Wimbledon to Chelsea £1,600,000
David SEAMAN QPR to Arsenal £1,300,000
Andy TOWNSEND Norwich to Chelsea £1,200,000
Anders LIMPAR Cremonese to Arsenal £1,200,000
John LUKIC Arsenal to Leeds Utd £1,000,000
Andy LINIGHAN Norwich to Arsenal £1,000,000
Tony COTON Watford to Man City £1,000,000
Gary McALLISTER Leicester to Leeds Utd £1,000,000
Andy HINCHCLIFFE Man City to Everton £900,000
Kevin RICHARDSON Arsenal to Real Sociedad £750,000
Paul BLADES Derby to Norwich £700,000
Paul WILLIAMS Charlton to Sheff Wed £700,000
Ronny ROSENTHAL Stand. Liege to Liverpool £650,000
Denis IRWIN Oldham to Manchester Utd £625,000
John HENDRIE Leeds Utd to Middlesbrough £500,000
Mark BRENNAN Middlesbrough to Man City £500,000
Colin CLARKE QPR to Portsmouth £450,000
John HUMPHREY Charlton to Crystal Pal £450,000
Clive WILSON Chelsea to QPR £450,000
Glyn HODGES Watford to Crystal Pal £410,000

Ronny Rosenthal.

TOP SCOTTISH SUMMER TRANSFERS

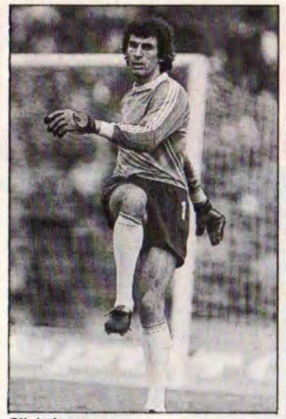
Derek FERGUSON Rangers to Hearts £750,000
Martin HAYES Arsenal to Celtic £650,000
Mark HATELEY Monaco to Rangers £500,000
Charlie NICHOLAS Aberdeen to Celtic £450,000
Tomas STICKROTH Uerdingen to St Mirren £400,000
Pieter HUISTRA Twente to Rangers £300,000

Mark Hateley.

Arsenal's new summer signings ... Anders Limpar, David Seaman and Andy Linighan.

NAME	POS	CNTRY	B'DATE	FROM	TO
ADEMIR	M	BRZ	17-12-1966	Benfica	Boavista
Alberta F. ACOSTA	A	ARG	23-08-1966	San Lorenzo	Toulouse
Rodrigues S. AGUSTIN	G	SP	10-09-1959	Real Madrid	Tenerife
Peter ALEXANDROV	A	BUL	07-12-1962	Courtraj	Slavia
Monteiro ALVARO	D	POR	03-01-1961	Benfica	E.Amadora
Pires A. ALOISIO	D	BRZ	11-08-1963	Barcelona	Porto
Loic AMISSE	A	FR	09-08-1954	Nantes	Angers
Martin ANDERMATT	M	SWZ	21-11-1961	Grasshoppers	Wettingen
Henrik ANDERSEN	D	DEN	07-05-1965	Anderlecht	Koln
Jorn ANDERSEN	A	NOR	03-02-1963	Eintracht F.	Fortuna D.
Jocelyn ANGLOMA	M	FR	07-08-1965	Lille	Paris S.G.
Alijosa ASANOVIC	M	YUG	14-12-1965	Hajduk S.	Metz
Eric ASSADOURIAN	A	FR	24-09-1966	Toulouse	Lille
Yves AUDOOR	A	BEL	25-01-1958	Ath.Bilbao	Espanol
William AYACHE	D	FR	10-01-1961	Montpellier	Nice
Maurice BANACH	A	WG	09-10-1967	Wattenschied 09	Koln
Claude BARRABE	G	FR	19-11-1966	Brest	Montpellier
Claude BARRET	D	FR	10-11-1960	Auxerre	Bordeaux
Alim BEN MABROUCK	M	ALG	25-06-1960	Racing	Bordeaux
David E. BILLABONA	M	SP	05-12-1969	Real Sociedad	Ath. Bilbao
Jose BIURRUN	P	SP	01-09-1958	Servette	Neuchatel
Adri BOGERS	D	HOL	04-05-1965	RKC	Mechelen
Gyorgy BOGNAR	M	HUN	05-11-1961	Toulon	Standard
Basile BOLI	D	FR	02-01-1967	Auxerre	Marseille
Christophe BONVIN	A	SWT	14-04-1965	Servette	Neuchatel
Johnny BOSMAN	A	HOL	01-02-1965	Mechelen	PSV
Maxime BOSSIS	D	FR	26-05-1955	–	Nantes
Abdel Aziz BOUDERBALA	M	MOR	26-12-1960	Racing	Lyon
Georges BREGY	M	SWZ	17-01-1958	Lausanne	Young Boys
Eugenio BUSTINGORRI	M	SP	26-12-1965	Atletico Madrid	Osasuna
Vlado BUZINOVSKI	A	AUS	30-03-1964	Beira Mar	Sp.Lisbon
Roberto CABANAS	A	COL	11-10-1961	Brest	Lyon
Bernard CASONI	D	FR	04-09-1961	Toulon	Marseille
Juan CAYASSO	A	CR	24-06-1961	Dep Saprissa	Stuttgart K
Fernando A.S CHALANO	M	POR	10-02-1959	Benfica	Belenenses
Jose CUCIUFFO	D	ARG	01-02-1961	Boca Juniors	Antwerp
Jean Pierre CYPRIEN	D	FR	12-02-1969	Le Havre	St. Etienne
Ed DE GOEY	G	HOL	20-12-1966	Sparta Rott.	Feyenoord
Fabien DEBOTTÉ	M	FR	16-11-1963	Toulon	Caen
Josef DEGEORGI	D	AUS	19-01-1960	Austria V.	Admira Wacker
Franky DEKENNE	D	BEL	07-07-1960	Antwerp	Waregem
Sven DEMANDT	A	WG	13-02-1965	Bayer Lev.	Fortuna D.
Stephane DEMOL	D	BEL	11-03-1966	Porto	Toulouse
Piet DEN BOER	A	HOL	17-08-1958	Bordeaux	Caen
Didier DESCHAMPS	M	FR	15-10-1968	Marseille	Bordeaux
Thomas DOLL	A	EG	09-04-1966	FC Berlin	Hamburg
Matthias DOSCHNER	D	EG	12-01-1958	Dresden	Fortuna C.
Stefan EFFENBERG	M	WG	02-08-1968	Borussia M.	Bayern M.
Andy EGLI	D	SWZ	08-05-1958	Grasshoppers	Neuchatel X.
Reiner ERNST	M	EG	31-12-1961	FC Berlin	Kaiserslautern
ESTEBAN Gutierrez F.	M	SP	20-10-1960	Real Madrid	Zaragoza
Rene EYKELKAMP	A	HOL	06-04-1964	Groningen	Mechelen
Patrice EYRAUD	M	FR	18-12-1967	Marseille	Toulouse
Phillippe FARGEON	A	FR	24-06-1964	Servette	Bordeaux
Walter FERNANDEZ	D	SWZ	20-08-1965	Lausanne	Neuchatel
Thierry FERNIER	M	FR	02-10-1964	Racing	Nantes
Hans-Dieter FLICK	M	WG	24-02-1969	Bayern M	Koln
Franco FODA	D	WG	23-04-1966	Kaiserslautern	Bayer L.
Laurent FOURNIER	M	FR	14-09-1964	St. Etienne	Marseille
Thomas FRANCK	M	WG	24-02-1971	Waldhof M.	Borussia D.
Hank FRASER	D	HOL	07-07-1966	Roda JC	Feyenoord
Uwe FUCHS	A	WG	23-07-1966	Fortuna D.	Koln
Haraid GAEMPERLE	D	SWZ	11-05-1960	S. Gall	Grasshoppers
Christophe GALTIER	D	FR	23-08-1966	Lille	Toulouse
Christophe GARDIÉ	G	FR	21-11-1964	Guingamp	Sochaux
Kurt GARGER	D	AUS	15-09-1960	Tirol	A.Salzburg
Alain GEIGER	D	SWZ	05-11-1960	St. Etienne	Servette
Reto GERTSCHEN	M	SWZ	24-02-1965	Lausanne	Sion
Gerald GLATZMAYER	M	AUS	13-12-1968	Vienna	Admira W.
Andoni J.L. GOIKOETCHEA	A	SP	21-10-1965	Real Sociedad	Barcelona
Sigurdur GRETARSSON	A	ICE	02-05-1962	Lucerne	Grasshoppers

Wim Kieft.



Silvia Lung.

Oleg Protasov.

Dragan Stojkovic.

EUROPEAN TRANSFER LIST

NAME	POS	CNTRY	B'DATE	FROM	TO
Fredy GROSSENBACHER	D	SWZ	10-08-1965	Servette	Young Boys
Eric GUERIT	M	FR	21-07-1964	Monaco	Cannes
Miguel A. GUERRERO	A	COL	07-09-1967	America Cali	Malaga
Georghe HAGI	M	ROM	05-02-1965	Steaua B.	Real Madrid
Ivan HASEK	M	CZ	06-09-1963	Sparta	Strasbourg
Hossam HASSAN	A	EG	10-08-1966	Al-Alhy	PAOK
Christian HASSLER	G	AUS	07-11-1970	SV Spittal	Tirol
Mark HATELEY	A	ENG	07-11-1961	Monaco	Rangers
Helmut HAUPTMANN	M	AUS	05-08-1964	A.Salzburg	Rapid V
Martin HAYES	A	ENG	21-03-1966	Arsenal	Celtic
Joop HIELE	G	HOL	25-12-1958	Feyenoord	SVV Schiedam
Dirk HIELSCHER	D	WG	17-10-1962	Bayer L.	FC Berlin
Glyn HODGES	M	ENG	30-04-1963	Watford	Crystal P.
Nicolas HUYSMAN	M	FR	09-02-1968	Dunkerque	Metz
Klas INGESSON	M	SWE	20-08-1968	IFK Goteborg	Mechelen
ISAIAS Marques	A	POR	18-10-1963	Boavista	Benfica
Maurizio JACOBACCI	A	SWZ	11-01-1963	Wettingen	Servette
Philippe JEANNOL	D	FR	06-08-1958	Paris S.G.	Nancy
John JENSEN	M	DEN	03-05-1965	Hamburg	Brondby
Juan F.R. JUANITO	D	FR	10-05-1965	Zaragoza At.	Madrid
Eugene KABONGO	A	ZAI	03-11-1960	Lyon	Bastia
Zbigniew KACZMAREK	D	POL	01-06-1962	Legia W.	Auxerre
Miroslav KADLEC	D	CZ	22-06-1964	Vitkovice	Kaiserslautern
Andre KANA-BIYIK	M	CAM	01-09-1965	Metz	Le Havre
Sylvain KASTENDEUCH	D	FR	31-08-1963	Metz	St. Etienne
Christiain KEGLEVITS	M	AUS	29-01-1961	Rapid V.	SK Vienna
Mario KEMPES	A	ARG	15-07-1954	St. Polten	Kremser
Wim KIEFT	A	HOL	12-11-1962	PSV	Bordeaux
Serge KIMONI	D	BEL	08-03-1965	Club Brugge	Seraing
Ulf KIRSTEN	A	EG	04-12-1965	Dresden	Bayer L.
Vladimir KINIER	D	CZ	06-04-1958	S.Bratislava	Bourges
Erwin KOEMAN	M	BEL	20-01-1961	Mechelen	PSV
Emil KOSTADINOV	A	BUL	12-08-1967	CSKA Sofia	Faro
Istvan KOZMA	M	HUN	03-12-1964	Dunfermline	Bordeaux
Walter KNALLER	A	AUS	24-10-1957	Admira Wacker	Voest
Edy KRNCEVIC	A	AUSTR	14-08-1960	Mulhouse	Liege
Mario KROHM	A	BEL	02-06-1967	R. Mech.	Antwerp
Eric LADA	A	FR	14-10-1965	Sochaux	Marseille
Leo LAINER	D	AUS	10-09-1960	Tirol	A.Salzburg
Brian LAUDRUP	A	DEN	22-02-1969	Bayer U.	Bayern M.
Thierry LAUREY	M	FR	17-02-1964	Sochaux	Paris S.G.
Jean Luis LIMA	A	FR	26-08-1967	Racing	Nantes
Stefan LINDQVIST	A	SWE	18-03-1967	Halmstad	Neuchatel
Julio LLORENTE	D	SP	14-06-1966	Real Madrid	Tenerife
Lubomir LUHOVY	A	CZ	31-03-1967	I. Bratislava	Martiques
Silvio LUNG	G	ROM	09-09-1956	S.Bucharest	Albacate
Peter LUX	M	WG	04-10-1962	Waldhof M.	Dresden
Cyrille MAKANAKY	A	CAM	26-06-1965	Toulon	Malaga
Hugo MARADONA	M	ARG	09-05-1969	Rayo Vallecano	Rapid Vienna
Rupert MARKO	A	AUS	24-11-1963	A.Salzburg	Tiro
Olaf MARSCHALL	A	AUS	19-03-1966	Lok Leipzig	Admira Wacker
Waldemar MATYSIK	M	POL	27-09-1961	Auxerre	Hamburg
Dmitri M'BUYU	A	BEL	31-10-1964	Wargem	Antwerp
Mick McCARTHY	D	RI	07-02-1959	Lyon	Millwall
Carmelo MICCICHE	A	FR	16-10-1966	Metz	Cannes
Fabrice MEGE	M	FR	06-06-1965	Monaco	Nice
Roger MILLA	A	CAM	25-05-1952	Reunion	FK Austria
Andreas MOLLER	M	WG	02-09-1967	Borussia D.	Eintracht F.
Jurgen MOHR	M	SWZ	18-08-1958	Sion	Servette
Pedro MONZON	D	BRZ	23-02-1962	Independiente	Elche
Lubomir MORAVCIK	M	CZ	22-06-1965	Plastika N	St.Etienne
Beat MUTTER	P	SWZ	22-07-1962	Bellinzona	Luzein
Henrik NIELSEN	A	DEN	29-03-1965	Iraklis	Lille
Dzoni NOVAK	D	YUG	04-09-1969	Olimpia	Partizan B
Markus NYFELER	A	SWZ	25-12-1965	Grasshoppers	Wettingen
Ernst OGRIS	A	AUS	09-12-1967	St Poelten	A.Wacker
Pascal OLMETA	P	FR	07-04-1961	Racing	Marseille
Jesper OLSEN	M	DEN	20-03-1961	Bordeaux	Cannes
Francois OMAM BIYIK	A	CAM	21-05-1966	Laval	Rennes
ONESIMO S.Gonzalez	M	SP	14-08-1968	Barcelona	Valladolid
Jean Claude PAGAL	D	CAM	15-09-1969	LaRoche Sur Yon	St. Etienne

NAME	POS	CNTRY	B'DATE	FROM	TO
Jacky PAILLARD	M	FR	06-10-1962	Toulouse	Rennes
Stephane PAILLE	A	SP	27-06-1965	Bordeaux	Porto
Bernard PARDO	M	FR	19-12-1960	Bordeaux	Marseille
Gerald PASSI	M	FR	21-01-1964	Toulouse	Monaco
Sasha PERSON	D	YUG	28-02-1965	Rijeka	Dinamo Z
Tamas PETRES	A	HUN	03-09-1968	Videoton	St.Poelten
Zeliko PETROVIC	M	YUG	13-11-1965	Buducnost	Dinamo Z
Hans Uwe PILZ	M	EG	10-11-1958	Dresdan	Fortuna C.
Flemming POVLSEN	A	DEN	03-12-1966	PSV	Borussia D
Fabrice POULLAIN	M	FR	27-08-1962	Monaco	Nice
Gerhard POSCHNER	M	WG	23-09-1969	Stuttgart	Borussia D.
PRINCE POLLEY	A	GH	05-04-1969	Sparta Rot	Bearschot
Oleg PROTASOV	A	SV	04-02-1964	Dinamo Kiev	Olympiakos
Waldemar PRUSIK	M	POL	27-07-1961	Slask W.	Rac. Mech.
Uwe RAHN	A	WG	21-05-1962	Koln	Hertha B.
Dirk REHBEIN	M	WG	14-08-1967	Bayer L.	FC Berlin
Andreas REISINGER	M	AUS	14-10-1963	Rapid V.	Wiener SC
Kjetil REKDAL	M	NOR	06-11-1968	Borussia Mon	Lierse
Bertrand REUZEAU	D	FR	01-04-1966	Laval	Marseille
Kevin RICHARDSON	M	ENG	04-12-1962	Arsenal	R. Sociedad
Alain ROCHE	D	FR	14-10-1967	Marseille	Auxerre
Gerhard RODAX	A	AUS	29-08-1965	Admira W.	At. Madrid
Frank ROHDE	D	EG	02-03-1960	FC Berlin	Hamburg
Wolfgang ROLFF	M	WG	26-12-1959	Strasburg	Bayer U.
Ronny ROSENTHAL	A	IS	04-10-1963	Standard	Liverpool
Josif ROTARIU	M	ROM	27-09-1962	S.Bucharest	Galatasaray
Gilles ROUSSET	P	FR	22-08-1963	Sochaux	Lyon
Jose Lopez RUI AGUAS	A	POR	28-04-1960	Porto	Benfica
Gil Soares RUI BARROS	M	POR	24-11-1965	Juventus	Monaco
Graeme RUTJES	D	HOL	20-03-1960	Mechelen	Anderlecht
Ioan SABAU	M	ROM	12-02-1968	D.Bucharest	Feyenoord
Matthias SAMMER	M	EG	15-09-1967	D.Dresden	Stuttgart
Souleymane SANE	A	GH	26-02-1961	Nurnberg	Wattenscheid
Franck SAUZEE	M	FR	28-10-1965	Marseille	Monaco
Peter SCHEPULL	D	SWZ	07-06-1964	Wettingen	Servette
Stefan SCHWARZ	D	SWE	18-04-1969	Malmo FF	Benfica
David SEAMAN	G	ENG	19-09-1963	Q.P.R.	Arsenal
Ciriaco SFORZA	M	SWZ	02-03-1970	Aarau	Grasshoppers
Valery SHMAROV	A	SU	23-02-1965	Spartak	Olympiakos
Jan STEJSKAL	G	CZ	15-01-1962	Sparta	Q.P.R.
Michael STERNKOPF	A	WG	21-04-1970	Karlsruhe	Bayern M.
Ratko STOJC	G	YUG	18-01-1959	Anderlecht	Charleroi
Christo STOITCHKOV	M	BUL	08-02-1966	CSKA Sofia	Barcelona
Dragan STOJKOVIC	M	YUG	03-03-1965	Red Star	Marseille
Nenad STOJKOVIC	D	YUG	26-05-1956	Mulhouse	Nancy
Edison SUAREZ	M	URU	06-11-1966	Danubio	Zaragoza
Simon TAHAMATA	A	HOL	20-05-1956	Beerschot	G. Ekeren
Ryszard TARASIEWICZ	A	POL	27-04-1962	Neuchatel	Nancy
Philippe THYS	D	FR	30-08-1969	Marseille	Toulon
J.A. Montes TORRECILLA	D	SP	25-02-1964	Atletico Madrid	Tenerife
Andy TOWNSEND	M	IR	23-07-1963	Norwich	Chelsea
Andreas TRAUTMANN	D	EG	12-05-1959	D.Dresden	Fortuna C.
Harry VAN DER LAAN	M	HOL	24-02-1964	Den Haag	Feyenoord
John VAN LOEN	A	HOL	04-02-1965	Roda JC	Anderlecht
Erwin VANDENBERGH	A	BEL	26-01-1949	Lille	Gent
Phillipe VAN DE WALLE	G	BEL	22-12-1961	Club Brugge	G. Ekeren
Martin VAN DUREN	A	HOL	27-10-1964	Den Bosch	Groningen
Rene VAN ECK	D	HOL	18-02-1966	Den Bosch	Luzein
Claude VERSPAILLE	D	BEL	21-07-1964	Courtrai	Club Bruges
Francisco VILLAROYA	M	SP	06-08-1966	Zaragoza	Real Madrid
Eric VISCAAL	A	BEL	20-03-1963	Lierse	Gent
Roger WEHRLI	D	SWT	18-03-1956	Lucerne	Aarau
Uwe WEIDERMANN	M	EG	14-06-1963	RW Erfut	Nurnberg
Eric WILLAARTS	A	HOL	25-08-1961	Utrecht	DS '79
Thomas WYSS	M	SWT	29-08-1965	Grasshoppers	S.Gallo
Anthony YEBOAH	A	GH	10-06-1966	Saarbrucken	Eintracht.F
Alexandr ZAVAROV	M	SU	26-04-1961	Juventus	Nancy
Gregor ZIDAN	D	YUG	05-10-1965	Olimpia	Dinamo Z
Jacek ZIOBER	M	POL	18-11-1959	LKS Lodz	Montpellier
Uwe ZOTSCHE	D	EG	15-09-1960	Lok.Leipzig	Strasburg

EAST–WEST LINK UPSETS RIVALS

BY KEIR RADNEDGE

Left: World Cup opponents England and Eire clash again in the European Championship. Above: Brian Rooy, Holland's exciting new talent.

THE 1992 European Championship may very likely be remembered not for who took part but for who did not.

East Germany are pulling out. Their league championship will, next year, be swallowed up by the West German Bundesliga and, in soccer terms, they will be wiped off the world map.

In human terms, the reunification of Germany has generally been welcomed by Europe's soccer community. But the nuts and bolts have upset Belgium, Wales and Luxembourg.

These three were all drawn in the same European qualifying group as both East Germany and their World Cup-winning West German neighbours. But none, it seems, was given due warning of the pace of unification arrangements, and all are set to claim compensation over lost fixture income. The Belgians, in particular, claim East Germany's immediate disappearance will cost them £400,000. They were due to host the East Germans on September 12 in group five's opening match.

Interest now focuses on whether East German stars such as Andreas Thom or Matthias Sammer can force their way into the unified German national team or whether new boss Berti Vogts will stay loyal to the Augenthaler-Matthaus-Voller-Klinsmann combination which landed up on top of the world in Rome in July.

The end of East Germany means there are now two four-team groups in the European qualifiers. All the other five groups contain five teams. But, unlike the World Cup, only the group winners will qualify for the finals in Sweden in two years' time.

The other four-team group is group seven in which England, after their superb World Cup, are favourites to see off the Irish Republic, Poland and Turkey. The Irish, as they proved to extreme length in the World Cup, do not find goal-scoring easy; Poland are in the doldrums after their World Cup qualifying dismissal by England; and Turkey will be trying to find their feet under new manager Sepp Piontek, the man who revived Danish football.

Apart from the virtual permanent partnership of English and Irish, there are no other World Cup repeats in the draw.

Italy's reward for their excellent World Cup is an awkward one. Hungary, Norway and Cyprus should not trouble that most exciting attacking partnership of Salvatore Schillaci (six-goal World Cup top scorer) and Roberto Baggio (at £8 million the world's costliest player). But the Soviet Union will not make it easy for Italy. After a dreadfully disappointing World Cup the Soviets have plenty of incentive to turn the corner.

For one thing, their newer players want to earn the right to follow old stars such as goalkeeper Dasayev, midfielders Litovchenko, Zavarov and Aleinikov and forwards Protasov and Belanov to foreign fields. For another, the Soviets have a sharp new boss in Anatoly Bishovets, who guided them to Olympic Games gold in Seoul two years ago.

European title-holders Holland also face a rebuilding job. Ruud Gullit will be fully fit at last, and European Footballer of the Year Marco Van Basten can, surely, never play as badly again as he did in the World Cup. Also, the Dutch possess a new starlet to spring on the game in Ajax youngster Brian Rooy. Their good fortune is to head what appears one of the more gentle qualifying groups, including Portugal, Greece, Finland and Malta.

Group two promises few goals, a lot of dropped points and plenty of drama at the end with little separating Romania, Scotland, Bulgaria and Switzerland. The decisive factor could be how many goals these four run up against the accompanying minnows, European championship debutants San Marino.

Contenders

A similar scenario may emerge in a fascinating group one. World Cup contenders Spain and Czechoslovakia clash with a resurgent France, who possess one of the most charismatic of managers in Michel Platini and one of the most outrageous of players in gifted yet moody Eric Cantona. The sacrificial victims in this group are Iceland and Albania – though whether Albania will compete after the recent political turmoil is uncertain.

Finally, San Marino are not the only newcomers to senior international soccer. Group four provides a competitive debut for the Faroe Islands.

But opponents Yugoslavia, Denmark, Austria and Northern Ireland need not fear being marooned by storms and gales up in the icy North Atlantic. The Faroes must travel south to play all their home games in Sweden because their national stadium has – for meteorological reasons – the sort of all-weather synthetic pitch banned for competitive play.

MARADONA'S LAST FLING

DIEGO MARADONA says he has one ambition remaining before he packs his golden bags, charters a private jet, summons his entourage of family, chauffeurs, agents and minders, and flies home to Argentina to wind down one of the most controversial careers in soccer history.

Maradona, last seen tearfully disappearing from view after the World Cup Final without waiting to congratulate his West German conquerors, is determined to win the European Champions' Cup.

This is the one major crown which has eluded El Pibe de Oro (The Golden Boy) since he arrived in Europe in 1982 for (only) £3 million and a two-year stay at Barcelona.

Now he is, of course, captain and inspiration of Napoli, champions of Italy. Two years ago their initial attempt on the most prestigious club prize in Europe ended after the first round. Then they were unlucky enough to be drawn against Real Madrid. This time, the fates have smiled and presented Napoli with (only) the mediocre Hungarians of Ujpest Dozsa.

Fear

Bad news for Napoli is that none of their most redoubtable rivals are likely to fall in the meantime. Indeed holders Milan, the one team Napoli would probably fear above any of the rest, are guaranteed a second-round place by virtue of a first-round bye.

Bayern Munich, with World Cup heroes such as Klaus Augenthaler and Olaf Thon, face APOEL of Cyprus; Chris Waddle's Marseille play the politically disturbed Albanians of Dinamo Tirana; and John Toshack's Real Madrid warm up for tougher ties ahead by taking on OB Odense of Denmark.

Madrid have spent heavily during the summer to buy Romanian superstar forward Gheorghe Hagi, Yugoslav defender Predrag Spasic and Zaragoza's Spanish World Cup midfielder, Francisco Villaroya. They also hope to parade another Spanish midfielder in Luis Milla - if they can win a political and administrative battle to prise him away from old rivals Barcelona. Madrid need Milla's gritty tackling: they have had to sell Rafael Martin Vazquez, a midfield star of their own, to Italy's Torino, and defensive pillar Manuel Sanchis is under a five-match European suspension.

No club in the world, however, has spent as much this summer as Juventus. They are runaway favourites to win the Cup-winners' Cup after landing the UEFA Cup last term. Barely had Juventus put the trophy in their boardroom than they were spending all their Cup-winning profit and more.

Some £8 million, a world record, was splashed on Fiorentina star Roberto Baggio; another £1.5 million went on Montpellier's Brazil centre-back Julio Cesar; West German World Cup midfielder Thomas Hassler cost £5.5 million from Cologne; three more run-of- the-mill Italian players cost £6 million.

To justify that outlay Juventus must succeed at home and in Europe too. Europe looks an easier touch because the Cup-winners' Cup, as usual, provides a motley mixture of talents. The only top-notch challengers are Johan Cruyff's Barcelona (Holland's Ronald Koeman, Denmark's Michael Laudrup and Co), Italian holders Sampdoria (Italy's Gianluca Vialli and the Soviet Union's Alexei Mikhailichenko), Kiev Dynamo (massively discredited after the Soviets' poor World Cup) and two clubs who will excite particular English interest.

Manchester United are one, leading English football back into Europe; PSV Eindhoven of Holland are the other, coached as they are by one Bobby Robson.

Aston Villa should possess too much experience and know-how for Banik Ostrava of Czechoslovakia in the UEFA Cup. But they are far from being the only previous European winners in contention. The roll includes West Germany's Bayer Leverkusen and Eintracht Frankfurt, Spain's Valencia and Atletico Madrid, Italy's Internazionale and Roma, and Portugal's Benfica and Sporting Lisbon.

In addition Anderlecht of Belgium have won both Cup-winners' Cup and UEFA Cup, Ferencvaros of Hungary and Dinamo Zagreb of Yugoslavia are one-time Fairs' Cup holders.

But this is where fears of the future start to peep through the euphoria engendered by the draw and the English clubs' return. Just because Manchester United and Aston Villa are back in Europe does not mean anyone need drop their guard against the hooligan hordes.

Trouble could explode in the most unlikely places. For example, Zagreb's hooligan supporters are notorious as the Bad Blue Boys. European football needs them to avoid the British police, the Boys in Blue, for as long as possible.

EUROPEAN CUPS DRAW 1990-91

CHAMPIONS CUP
BYE: Milan (holders)
Akureyi v CSCA Sofia
Bayern Munich v Apoel (Cyp)
Dinamo Bucharest v St Patricks Athletic (RI)
Lech Poznan v Panathinaikos
Lillestrom (Nor) v Club Bruge (Bel)
Malmo v Besiktas (Tur)
Marseille v Dinamo Tirana
Porto v Portadown (NI)
Rangers v Valletta
Real Madrid v Odsense (Den)
Red Star (Yug) v Grasshopper (Swz)
Sparta Praha v Ujpest Dozsa (Hun)
Tirol v Kuusysi Lahti (Fin)
Union Luxembourg v Dynamo Dresden

CUP-WINNERS' CUP
Preliminary round:
Bray Wanderers (RI) v Trabzonspor (Tur)

First round:
Bray or Trabzonspor v Barcelona
Estrela do Amadora (Por) v Neuchatel Xamax (Swz)
Famagusta (Cyprus) v Aberdeen
Fram Reykjavik v Djurgadens
Glentoran v Steaua Bucharest
Kaiserslautern v Sampdoria (holders)
Kiev Dynamo v Kuopio (Fin)
Legia Warsaw v Swift Hesperange (Lux)
Manchester United v Pecsi Munkas (Hungary)
Montepellier (Fr) v PSV Eindhoven
Olympiakos (Gr) v Flamurtari (Alb)
Schwerin (EG) v FK Austria
Sliema W (Mal) v Dukla Praha
Sliven(Bul) v Juventus
Viking (Norway) v FC Liege
Wrexham (Wal) v Lyngby (Den)

UEFA CUP
First round:
Anderlecht v Petrolul Ploiesti
Antwerp v Ferencvaros
Aston Villa v Banik Ostrava
Atalanta v Dinamo Zagreb
Avenir Beggen (Lux) v Inter Bratislava (Cz)
Bayer Leverkusen v Twente Enschede
Borussia Dortmund v Chemnitz
Broendby (Den) v Eintracht Frankfurt
Chernomorets Odessa v Rosenborg Trondheim
Dnepr v Hearts
Dundee Unt v Hafnarfjardar (Ice)
Fenerbahce v Vitoria Guimaraes
GKS Katowice (Pol) v TPs (Fin)
Glenavon (NI) v Bordeaux
Hibernian (Mal) v Partizan (Yug)
Iraklis Salonika v Valencia
Lausanne v Real Sociedad
Magdeburg v RoPs Fin)
MTK/VM (Hun) v Luzern
Morrkoeping v Koln
Partizani Tirana v Universitatea Craiova
Politehnica Timisoara v Atletico Madrid
Rapid Vienna v Internazionale
Roda Kerkrade v Monaco
Roma v Benfica
Sevilla v PAOK Salonika
Slavia Sofia v Omonia (Cyp)
Sporting Lisbon v Mechelen
Torpedo Moscow v GAIS Gothenburg
Vejle (Den) v Admira Wacker
Vitesse Arnhem v Derry City
Zaglebie Lubin v Bologna

EUROPEAN FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 1990-92

GROUP 1
(Spain, Czechoslovakia, France, Iceland, Albania).
30. 5.90 Iceland – Albania 2-0
5. 9.90 Iceland – France
26. 9.90 Czechoslovakia – Iceland
10.10.90 Spain – Iceland
13.10.90 France – Czechoslovakia
14.11.90 Czechoslovakia – Spain
17.11.90 Albania – France
19.12.90 Spain – Albania
20. 2.91 France – Spain
30. 3.91 France – Albania
1. 5.91 Albania – Czechoslovakia
26. 5.91 Albania – Iceland
5. 6.91 Iceland – Czechoslovakia
4. 9.91 Czechoslovakia – France
25. 9.91 Iceland – Spain
12.10.91 Spain – France
16.10.91 Czechoslovakia – Albania
13.11.91 Spain – Czechoslovakia
13/20.11.91 France – Iceland
18.12.91 Albania – Spain

GROUP 2
(Romania, Scotland, Bulgaria, Switzerland, San Marino).
12. 9.90 Switzerland – Bulgaria
12. 9.90 Scotland – Romania
17.10.90 Romania – Bulgaria
17.10.90 Scotland – Switzerland
14.11.90 Bulgaria – Scotland
14.11.90 San Marino – Switzerland
5.12.90 Romania – San Marino
27. 3.91 Scotland – Bulgaria
27. 3.91 San Marino – Romania
3. 4.91 Switzerland – Romania
1. 5.91 Bulgaria – Switzerland
1. 5.91 San Marino – Scotland
22. 5.91 San Marino – Bulgaria
5. 6.91 Switzerland – San Marino
11. 9.91 Switzerland – Scotland
16.10.91 Bulgaria – San Marino
16.10.91 Romania – Scotland
13.11.91 Scotland – San Marino
13.11.91 Romania – Switzerland
20.11.91 Bulgaria – Romania

GROUP 3
(Italy, USSR, Hungary, Norway, Cyprus)
12. 9.90 USSR – Norway
10.10.90 Norway – Hungary
17.10.90 Hungary – Italy
31.10.90 Hungary – Cyprus
3.11.90 Italy – USSR
14.11.90 Cyprus – Norway
22.12.90 Cyprus – Italy
3. 4.91 Cyprus – Hungary
17. 4.91 Hungary – USSR
1. 5.91 Italy – Hungary
1. 5.91 Norway – Cyprus
22/29.5.91 USSR – Cyprus
5. 6.91 Norway – Italy
28. 8.91 Norway – USSR
25. 9.91 USSR – Hungary
12.10.91 USSR – Italy
30.10.91 Hungary – Norway
13.11.91 Italy – Norway
13.11.91 Cyprus – USSR
21.12.91 Italy – Cyprus

GROUP 4
(Yugoslavia, Denmark, Austria, Northern Ireland, Faroe Islands)
12. 9.90 Northern Ireland – Yugoslavia
12. 9.90 Faroe Islands – Austria
10.10.90 Denmark – Faroe Islands
17.10.90 Northern Ireland – Denmark
31.10.90 Yugoslavia – Austria
14.11.90 Denmark – Yugoslavia
14.11.90 Austria – Northern Ireland
27. 3.91 Yugoslavia – N. Ireland
1. 5.91 Yugoslavia – Denmark
1. 5.91 N. Ireland – Faroe Islands
14/15.5.91 Yugoslavia – Faroe Islands
22. 5.91 Austria – Faroe Islands
5. 6.91 Denmark – Austria
11. 9.91 Faroe Islands – N.Ireland
25. 9.91 Faroe Islands – Denmark
9.10.91 Austria – Denmark
16.10.91 Faroe Islands – Yugoslavia
16.10.91 N.Ireland – Austria
13.11.91 Denmark – N.Ireland
13.11.91 Austria – Yugoslavia

GROUP 5
(Germany, Belgium, Wales, Luxembourg)
17.10.90 Wales – Belgium
31.10.90 Luxembourg – Germany
14.11.90 Luxembourg – Wales
27. 2.91 Belgium – Luxembourg
27. 3.91 Belgium – Wales
1. 5.91 Germany – Belgium
5. 6.91 Wales – Germany
11. 9.91 Luxembourg – Belgium
16.10.91 Germany – Wales
13.11.91 Wales – Luxembourg
20.11.91 Belgium – Germany
17.12.91 Germany – Luxembourg

GROUP 6
(Holland, Portugal, Greece, Finland, Malta)
12. 9.90 Finland – Portugal
17.10.90 Portugal – Holland
31.10.90 Greece – Malta
21.11.90 Holland – Greece
25.11.90 Malta – Finland
19/23.12.90 Malta – Holland
23. 1.91 Greece – Portugal
9. 2.91 Malta – Portugal
20. 2.91 Portugal – Malta
13. 3.91 Holland – Malta
17. 4.91 Holland – Finland
16. 5.91 Finland – Malta
5. 6.91 Finland – Holland
11. 9.91 Portugal – Finland
9.10.91 Finland – Greece
16.10.91 Holland – Portugal
30.10.91 Greece – Finland
20.11.91 Portugal – Greece
4.12.91 Greece – Holland
22.12.91 Malta – Greece

GROUP 7
(England, Republic of Ireland, Poland, Turkey)
17.10.90 England – Poland
17.10.90 Rep. of Ireland – Turkey
14.11.90 Rep. of Ireland – England
14.11.90 Turkey – Poland
27. 3.91 England – Rep. of Ireland
17. 4.91 Poland – Turkey
1. 5.91 Turkey – England
1. 5.91 Rep. of Ireland – Poland
16.10.91 Poland – Rep. of Ireland
16.10.91 England – Turkey
13.11.91 Turkey – Rep. of Ireland
13.11.91 Poland – England

WEST GERMANY By ARTHUR ROTMIL

BUNDESLIGA OUT ON A HIGH NOTE

AFTER 27 years of existence the Bundesliga's championship is being contested in its present form for the last time, limited to West German clubs. As from 1991-92, when the country becomes unified for the first time since 1945, an all-national league will be formed from the present Federal Republic and the current East German Oberliga.

In effect, the Bundesliga will be enlarged by two clubs, from 18 to 20, through the addition of the East German champions and runners-up. A further six East German clubs will join a new Second Division to be run in two sections of 12 teams each.

At the end of the initial phase, after home and away matches, the top six clubs in each division will play off for promotion, with the bottom six in each pool playing off to remain in the Second Division.

At the end of one term in the First Division, the bottom two will be relegated and two Second Division clubs promoted. The third from bottom will play off against the third-placed Second Division club for the remaining place in the top group.

The promotion and relegation system in the all-German national league will be decided in due course.

Conduct

West Germany's triumph in the World Cup is expected to have a startling effect on attendances. Former World Cup winner Uli Hoeness, now Bayern Munich's general manager, says: "Not only the winning of the title, but the conduct of the team and of manager Franz Beckenbauer has given our game a tremendous boost. There were no rows, no scandals and no problems of any kind behind the scenes.

"Football had earned a lot of prestige in the previous six months, mainly through success in the European competitions and the positive, professional attitude of our clubs. What happened in Italy made things even better. The game has become an important topic in all classes of society.

"We in the Bundesliga must remain sensible, calm and receptive towards the fans, and utilise the feeling of euphoria. Even the big industrial combines, like Opel-General Motors and Mercedes, have recognised that there is money to be made out of soccer. That is our big chance.

"Clearly, no television channel can now afford to ignore football. This means that the 180 million marks (60m) which the Bundesliga clubs collect are the new yardstick for future contracts." Hoeness added: "I feel confident that the Bundesliga will now go closer to the lucrative Italian set-up.

"Perhaps in two or three years we can catch up with the Italians if they, because of the astronomical salaries, experience problems with taxation.

"Our players are earning more than ever before. If we are able to keep it up – meaning high attendances – then the differences will disappear. Our top players will have no reason to emigrate." Last season's total of 6.257 million spectators (20,449 a match) was the highest for eight years. Unhappily, the total of 790 goals (2.58 per game) was a negative record, and the 31 sendings-off equalled the worst mark of 1985-86.

Norweigan Jorn Andersen of Eintracht Frankfurt became the first foreign top scorer with 18 goals, before joining Fortuna Dusseldorf.

But the Bundesliga is financially healthy. Increased admission charges, plus the steadily rising income from TV, advertising and sponsorship, have helped a number of clubs to achieve financial stability. And the fears that too many live games on TV would ruin gates did not materialise.

Old and new stars also rekindled interest. Pierre Littbarski, Thomas Hassler and Andy Moller were the pick. Youngsters such as Michael Sternkopf and Thomas Strunz (both now with Bayern Munich) are the biggest hopes for the future.

Bayern will again be the team to beat. At the start of the season they had seven strikers, including three foreigners – Alan McInally, Radmilo Mihajlovic and newcomer Brian Laudrup, Denmark's Footballer of the Year, (ex Bayer Uerdingen) at 2 million the most expensive Bundesliga import. As Bayern captain Klaus Augenthaler says: "The Thursday training to decide the starting line-up will be harder than beating the opposition on Saturday."

Bayern's biggest rivals, Koln, captured Munich's Hans-Dieter Flock and the Dane Hendrik Andersen, ex-Anderlecht. But they lost the brilliant Hassler to Juventus and Rahn to Hertha Berlin. Eintracht Frankfurt welcomed back Moller from Borussia Dortmund, who signed the Dane Flemming Povlsen (ex-PSV Eindhoven).

Bayer Leverkusen bought East German star Ulf Kirsten (ex- Dynamo Dresden) for 1.2m; VfB Stuttgart snatched his club-mate Matthias Sammer.

Kaiserslautern signed Czechoslovak World Cup stopper Miroslav Kadlec (T J Vitkovice) and East German striker Rainer Ernst from FC Berlin.

Littbarski is getting to the veteran stage, but he is still among the best and most popular players in Wesr Germany. Left: Koln newcomer Hendrik Andersen.

CSKA will find Bulgarian international player Kostadinov hard to replace.

AUSTRIA By ARTHUR ROTMIL

Maradona junior's on the move again

SPECTACULAR transfers dominated the headlines before the Austrian season got under way. Perhaps the most interesting domestic signing was that of Hugo Maradona, Diego's younger brother, who has made yet another move and joined Rapid Vienna from Spain's Rayo Vallecano.

The 21-year-old Hugo, originally from Argentinos Juniors, was lured to Napoli in 1987, on the recommendation of his big brother. But they didn't have room for another foreigner and loaned him to Ascoli. Maradona then joined Vallecano and helped them to promotion.

But they were promptly relegated last season and now he has taken a one-year loan contract with Rapid, his fifth club in four years.

The richest-ever Austrian sale abroad was clinched by Admira Wacker, who sold striker Gerhard Rodax to Atletico Madrid. Rodax, 25, won Europe's Silver Boot for his 35 League goals last term, cost Madrid nearly £2m, and will earn a basic £560,000 a year.

Maradona junior, now with Rapid Vienna.

Bonus

In addition, Rodax can cash in from sponsors, and even more importantly, he will get a free transfer when his three-year contract ends! Rumour has it that Atletico's controversial president, Jesus Gil, has promised Rodax a special bonus of a million dollars if he deposes Mexican Hugo Sanchez from local rivals Real Madrid, as Spain's top scorer.

Admira promptly signed a replacement, Olaf Marschall from East Germany's Lokomotive Leipzig.

Champions FC Tirol parted company with veteran former West German international Hansi Muller. He was feted in an emotional farewell testimonial, attended by 14,000 fans, between international "oldies" from all over the world.

Tirol also released veterans Bruno Pezzey, who has retired, and Leopold Lainer, to Austria Salzburg, and engaged former West German striker Horst Hrubesch as assistant manager.

Rep. of IRELAND By SEAN CREEDON

Will the World Cup feats be reflected in the domestic scene?

Morocco match is Fields testimonial

THE Republic of Ireland's friendly against Morocco at Dalymount Park, Dublin on September 12 will be a testimonial for Fran Fields, the former FAI president.

Fields was instrumental in bringing Finn Harps from Donegal into senior football in 1969 and four years ago he also helped Derry City in their successful bid to join the League of Ireland.

It will be The Republic's first-ever game against Morocco and they should extend their unbeaten record of 20 games in Dublin. The only country to beat the Republic in Dublin since Jack Charlton was appointed manager was Wales. That was his first game in charge back in March 1986.

The game is being played at Dalymount because of much needed turf work at Lansdowne Road. Dalymount's safety capacity has now been reduced to 20,000 and no doubt there will be a mad scramble to welcome home 'the Boys in Green'.

The League of Ireland season which started on Sunday September 2 has a new sponsor this season. Bord Gais (The Irish Gas Board) have replaced Opel, who backed the League for the past three season. Bord Gais sponsored RTE's television coverage of Italia '90 when Ireland went soccer mad for three weeks. It will be interesting to see if the Republic's World Cup campaign will benefit the domestic scene.

Premier Division champions St Patrick's Athletic will defend their title from their temporary home at Harold's Cross. The repairs to their own Richmond Park ground are not yet complete.

The Saints have retained all but one of their championship-winning side. Right-back Curtis Fleming has joined Oldham. Meanwhile Derry City, who won the treble in 1988-89 have lost some of their best players. Mick Neville has gone to Shelbourne, Paul Doolin to Portadown and Alex Krstic to France.

Return

Two of their brightest young stars, Liam Coyle and Martin Bayly, have both been forced to retire because of serious knee injuries.

Making a comeback to the League after an absence of 46 years will be St James' Gate, the team of Guinness' Brewery. They have taken the place of Newcastle West in the first division.

Shelbourne have done great work at their new home Tolka Park, while Shamrock Rovers plan to return to the southside of Dublin at the end of the month. In a novel move The Hoops new home will be the Royal Dublin Society's Showjumping arena in Ballsbridge, only a few hundred yards away from their former home at Milltown.

The Kilcoyne family, former owners of the club, broke the hearts of many Rovers fans three years ago when they said they were selling Milltown for housing development. Rovers fans picketed the move to Tolka Park and after one season the Kilcoynes sold the club to a group of supporters lead by John McNamara.

For the past two seasons Rovers have shared Dalymount Park with Bohemians, but it was an unhappy alliance and Rovers are now almost back to their roots. The RDS was also the proposed home of the embryonic Dublin City club, who planned to play in the Scottish League, but nothing has been heard of Dublin City since the press conference to announce their plans earlier this year.

Former Manchester City and Bury defender Kenny Clements is the new manager of Limerick City. Clements will have a tough task to keep the Limerick club in the top division. Last season Limerick went through three managers and had to get a loan from the League to finish out the season.

BULGARIA By BOB VAUGHAN

Easy start for CSKA

THREE clubs go in to the European Cups with the shadow of recent seasons' failures to reach the second round hanging over them.

Two should, however, go in to the early October hat for the draw –CSKA and Slavia, the league runners-up, whose improvement in 1989-90, with a completely new squad, has brought a UEFA tie with Omonia of Cyprus, a hurdle the oldest and most popular Bulgarian team should take.

The 26-times champions, CSKA, also fancy their chances in the first round, against Akureyri of Iceland though they have lost Penev, Stoichkov and Kostadinov, who are seeking their fortunes in Iberia.

Recruitment to the champions' ranks has seen the signing of the Stoyanov, the FK Sliven goalkeeper, the Etar international Pelakov, for midfield, Nankov, the speedy Slavia striker/winger, who has already Olympic and under-21 experience and, subject to final confirmation, Beroe's playmaker, Kalaydiev, the captain of the under-21s in whom Xamax Neuchatel are also interested.

As soon as his contract at Beore was up, Kalaydiev signed for the champions who then were able to discuss a near half-million pound deal with the Swiss club.

Beroe were, to say the least, put out as this negotiation would deprive them of the Swiss francs they would have received had not the FA declined to agree Kalaydiev's move abroad.

Now the young schemer, perhaps in various senses, is staying in Bulgaria and playing next season for CSKA, though in the case of UEFA and FIFA competitions, it might be 1991-92 as it appears that certain players have taken part in youth and junior competition for which they were not qualified.

Kalaydiev and his new CSKA colleagues could be among them, including the left-sided defender, Ouroukov, and newly signed goalkeeper, Stoyanov.

On the field cup-winners FK Sliven, without Stoyanov, look to have an impossible task against Juventus and should be able to concentrate on improving their League position, ninth in 1989-90, and retaining the domestic Cup, the only trophy not currently in the hands of CSKA.

The latter start, rather oddly, their 1990/91 campaign with a derby against Slavia, three days before the season elsewhere begins.

ITALY BY PADDY AGNEW

Italian league stronger than ever!

THERE'S no business like soccer business, at least not in Italy.

Any other country might reasonably have been expected to be suffering from post "Mondial" blues. A country that has just seen its much loved heroes topple at the second last fence in a hometown World Cup might have turned its back on soccer, in a fit of pique.

Not so, "la bella Italia". Andreas Brehme had hardly scored the ultimate, all decisive goal of "Italia '90" but that the "tifosi" were already engaged in fierce arguments about the new cop of "stranieri" or foreign players. Encouraging advance sales of season tickets (AC Milan, Juventus and Napoli), frantic last minute signings, the arrival (thus far) of 21 new foreign players and well attended August friendlies would all seem to indicate that the Italian love of the game is as strong, if not stronger, than ever.

The Italian football circus – fans, media and professionals alike – has never suffered from an inferiority complex. With a refreshing lack of modesty, the Italian league is still referred to as "Il piu bel campionato del mondo" (the best in the world).

Titanic

Maybe, the Italians are right. Certainly, after the relative disappointment of the World Cup, both from a nationalistic and a quality viewpoint, Italian fans will be glad to get back to league soccer. They do so in the knowledge that, with the exception perhaps of the West Germany v Holland second round game in Milan, this summer's World Cup offered little to compare with the titanic AC Milan-Napoli clashes of last season.

When AC Milan's flamboyant President, the television magnate, Silvio Berlusconi, commented this summer that his club team were "light years ahead" of all 24 sides seen at "Italian '90", he was only stating what oft was thought through June and July '90, but ne'er so succinctly expressed. The fact, too, that all three European Club trophies are currently in Italian hands (Milan, Juventus and Sampdoria) would add textual evidence to the Italian view of their champion – simply the best.

All the signs, too, would indicate that in 1990-91, the best will get better. The new Italian championship looks, on paper at least, to be an even more competitive one than that of 1989-90, with five sides (Inter Milan, AC Milan,Juventus, Napoli and Sampdoria) starting in pole position.

Inevitably, the summer action concerns the player market. In the case of such as the two Milan sides and reigning champions, Napoli, it was not so much a case of reconstruction as of consolidation. Inter, for example, already had their World Cup winning trio of Jurgen Klinsmann, Lothar Mattheus and Andreas Brehme. Thus with the addition of the Genoa striker, Davide Fontolan, they immediately became everyone's obvious championship tip.

Their neighbours and keen rivals, AC Milan, also have reason for optimism. For the first time ever, they will start the season with their three star Dutchmen, Ruud Gullit, Marco Van Basten and Frank Rijkaard all fit and well. A mixture of World Cup disappointments and injury frustrations will ensure that all three are especially motivated for the new season while, with the signing of Cesena's Massimo Agostini, competition for places up front will be especially hot.

Napoli, too, have remained faithful to their foreign trio of the last two seasons, namely Brazilians Alemao and Careca, plus the little known Argentinian, D.A. Maradona. Having bought a new goalkeeper (Giovanni Galli from AC Milan) and having also bought one of the most promising second division strikers of last season (23 goal Andrea Silenzi of Reggiana), Napoli clearly feel themselves more than equipped to defend their title. It also comes as no small relief to Napoli to discover that the aforementioned Maradona came back from his summer holidays, on schedule and without as much as a cross word about either Italy or Naples.

Of the championship contenders, Juventus are clearly the most changed team. World Cup winner. Thomas Hassler, and Brazilian, Julio Cesar, along with Lazio's Paulo Di Canio and the allegedly £12.5 million sterling purchase Roberto Baggio from Fiorentina will join a new coach, Gigi Maifredi, formerly of Bologna to form a side which, according to its most famous patrol, FIAT President, Gianni Agnelli, will fully mature only in two years time.

As for the rest of the first division, space constraints oblige us merely to signal the more interesting arrivals – the Soviets, Mikhailichenko (Sampdoria) and Dobrovolski (Genoa), the Romanians Lacatus (Fiorentina) and Raducioiu (Bari), the Swede Brolin (Parma), the Hungarian, Detari (Bologna), Brazilians Mazinho (Lecce), Aldair (Roma) and Taffarel (Parma), Spaniard Martin Vazquez (Torino), the Uruguayans Francescoli, Fonseca and Herrera (all Cagliari) and the West German Riedle (Lazio).

Roll on, the new season.

West German Thomas Haessler joins Juventus as part of their massive summer shopping spree. He cost a mere £5.5 million.

Maradona's Napoli and both Milan clubs have forced Juventus to dig deep in their bid to challenge for the Italian title.

MARCO VAN BASTEN: Refreshed.

LAGOS DETARI: Recruited.

WHO'S HOT AND WHO'S NOT

CLUBS AND COACHES	BOUGHT	SOLD
Atalanta Frosio (nuovo)	Bigliardi (Napoli) De Patre (Monza) Guerrieri (Arezzo) Maretti (Arezzo) Monti (Lazio) Perrone (Barl) Rizzolo (Lazio)	Bresciani (Torino) Barcella (Cesena) Madonna (Lazio) Piotti (Genoa) Bortolazzi (Genoa) Dicintio (Cosenza) Compagno (Cosenza)
Barl Salvemini (conf.)	Dicara (Pescara) Cucchi (Inter) Raduciolu (Dinamo B) De Ruggiero (Trani) Colombo (Milan)	Perrone (Atalanta) Carbone (Milan)
Bologna Scoglio (nuovo)	Mariani (Brescia) Verga (Milan) Di Già (Inter) Blondo (Como) Tricella (Juventus) Detari (Olympiakos) Valleriani (Legnano) Notaristefano (Como)	Luppi e De Marchi (Juventus) I. Bonetti (Samp) Stringara (Inter) Geovani (?) Giordano (Ascoli) Marronaro (Lecce)
Cagliari Ranieri (conf.)	Fonseca (Nacional) Di Bitonto (Barletta) Francescoli (Marsiglia) Herrera (Figueras) Matteoli (Inter) Nardini (Barletta) Rosa (Juventus)	Fadda (Siena) Bernardini (Ascoli)
Cesena Lippi (conf.)	Barcella (Atalanta) Amarildo (Lazio) Giovannelli (Ascoli) Ciocci (Ancona) Antonioli (Milan)	Domini (Lazio) Agostini (Milan) S. Rossi (Milan) Zagati (Siena) Cucchi (Avellino)
Fiorentina Lazaroni (nuovo)	Rossini (Inter) Lacatus (Steaua) Fiondella (Lucchese) Fuser (Milan) Valdo (Benfica) Borgonovo (Milan)	Battistini (Inter) Baggio (Juventus)
Genoa Bagnoli (nuovo)	Onorati (Avellino) Piotti (Atalanta) E. Signorelli (Barletta) Bortolazzi (Atalanta) Skuhravy (Sparta) Pacione (Verona)	Fontolan (Inter) Urban (Triestina)
Inter Trapattoni (conf.)	Pizzi (Parma) Fontolan (Genoa) Battistini (Florentina) Stringara (Bologna) Paganin (Udinese)	Rossini (Fiorentina) Cucchi (Bari) Matteoli (Cagliari) Di Già (Bologna) Verdelli (Cremonese)
Juventus Maifredi (nuovo)	Luppi (Bologna) De Marchi (Bologna) Hässler (Colonia) Baggio (Fiorentina) Corini (Brescia) Orlando (Reggina) Di Canio (Lazio) Julio Cesar (Montpellier)	Barros (Monaco) Zavarov (Nancy) Tricella (Bologna) Bruno (Torino) Alejnikov (?) Buso (Fiorentina) Rosa (Cagliari)
Lazio Zoff (nuovo)	Riedie (Werder Brema) Lampugnani (Mantova) Domini (Cesena) Madonna (Atalanta)	Di Canio (Juve) Amarildo (Cesena) Monti (Atalanta) Piscedda (Pescara) Rizzolo (Atalanta)
Lecce Boniek (nuovo)	Panero (Barletta) Mazinho (Vasco) Marronaro (Bologna) Amodio (Avellino) Zunico (Parma)	Righetti (Pescara) Levanto (Casertana)
Milan Sacchi (conf.)	Agostini (Cesena) Gaudenzi (Verona) S. Rossi (Cesena) Costi (Modena) Nava (Reggiana) Carbone (Bari)	G. Galli (Napoli) Pullo (Pisa) Verga (Bologna) Lantignotti (Reggiana) Antonioli (Cesena) Colombo (Bari) Borgonovo (Fiorentina)
Napoli Bigon (conf.)	G. Galli (Milan) Silenzi (Reggiana) Incocciati (Pisa) Venturin (Torino)	Carnevale (Roma) Bigliardi (Atalanta) Fusi (Torino) Tarantino (Barletta)
Parma Scala (conf.)	Sorce (Licata) Monza (Inter) Taffarel (Inter. P.A.) Mannari (Como) Cuoghi (Como) Brolin (Norrköping)	Pizzi (Inter) Giandebiaggi (Cremonese) Sommella (Virescit) Susic (Udinese) Zunico (Lecce)
Pisa Lucescu (nuovo)	Larsen (Lyngby) Pullo (Milan) Padovano (Cosenza) Simeone (Velez S.)	Nista (Ancona) Incocciati (Napoli) Cuoghi (Parma)
Roma Bianchi (nuovo)	Carnevale (Napoli) Carboni (Samp) Aldair (Benfica) Peruzzi (Verona) Zinetti (Pescara) Salsano (Samp)	Tancredi (Torino) Impallomeni (Pescara) Cucciari (Verona) Aiello (Casertana) Statuto (Casertana)
Sampdoria Boskov (conf.)	I. Bonetti (Bologna) Mikhailichenko (Din. K.) Branca (Udinese)	Carboni (Roma) Ganz (Brescia) Saisano (Roma)
Torino Mondonico (nuovo)	Martin Vazquez (Real M.) Bresciani (Atalanta) Annoni (Como) Tancredi (Roma) Bruno (Juventus) Carillo (Ascoli)	Bianchi (Verona) Rossi (Verona) Venturin (Napoli) Fimognari (Reggina) Enzo (Ascoli)

CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

Macala can look to same old faces

REACHING the World Cup quarter finals in Italy restored some pride to the national team after the failure of Josef Masopust's squad even to qualify for Euro '88 in Germany.

'Pepi' may have been a greater player than his Slovan contemporary, Venglos but the man from Ruzemberok was able to get the most out of a Sparta-based team which, though, territorially inferior to Germany, ran Beckenbauer's team close and might have snatched a draw in the closing stages.

The reward for Venglos is a two year contract at Villa Park where the first task will be to get past a club he knows well in the UEFA Cup, Banik Ostrava, who prepared with a 3-2 friendly defeat at Coventry.

Less fortunate in the European Cup draw are champions Sparta who face Spartak Moscow, likely early elimination accompanying another loss, that of national team 'keeper Stejskal bound for Loftus Road and Queens Park Rangers.

Shoulder to shoulder with the Germans – until the quarter finals at least.

Home-based

Whether new national manager Milan Macala will continue to rely on the full time professionals spread throughout Europe or bring on home-based youngsters such as Stas of Banik remains to be seen.

Macala, a former Slavia 'keeper who has coached in Cyprus, Olomouc and at Banik, will have a difficult task in following Venglos though for the European Championship qualifying games the Italia '90 squad will probably do.

Few of the first choices will remain in the Czechoslovak League come the beginning of the autumn half of the season. Hasek is already underway with Racing in Strasbourg, Kadlec at Kaiserslautern, heavily defeated by Bayern Munich in the German Supercup and Skuhravy in Genoa while Kozian and Knoflicek are breathing more easily, their St Pauli Hamburg having passed the financial scrutiny of the West German FA who had to investigate the books before issuing the annual licence to the Bundesliga club located near the Reeperbahn.

Back in Czechoslovakia the league will be hard pressed to attract spectators as admission prices are bound to rise, fewer top players will be performing at home and none is likely to unseat Sparta where Vaclav Jezek will again be important behind the scenes, probably as sport director.

One or two clubs will be operating under new banners, for reasons of sponsorship or return to pre 1948 names. Nitra have become FC Minolta thanks to their new sponsor, Slovan, SK Slovan Bratislava, the name under which they were founded in 1919.

More important will be the locating of new sponsors, probably from outside Slovakia and managing at least a UEFA Cup placing.

Dukla, start in the Cup-winners' Cup with what should be the simple task of eliminating Sliema Wanderers despite the second leg being away while cross town opponents, Inter Bratislava, now settled in Petrzalka, travel to Luxembourg for a UEFA tie with Avenir Beggen.

Success is vital to stop fans making the now simple and visa free journey each weekend to shop in the Suedstadt and see an Austrian league match which might or might not be marginally better.

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John Bosman – new signing for PSV

HOLLAND BY SIMON KUPER

BIG THREE ARE OUT ON THEIR OWN

HOLLAND'S "Big Three" of PSV, Ajax and Feyenoord should be far stronger this year than last.

PSV have made three excellent signings. The Romanian sweeper Gheorge Popescu has come from Universitatea Craiova, and Dutch internationals Johnny Bosman and Erwin Koeman have returned from Mechelan. They cost PSV £3.2 million in total, a bargain for three current internationals. PSV have announced their aims for the season: to win the double and at least survive the winter in the UEFA Cup. A stern task awaits Bobby Robson.

The club have always depended for money on the Philips company. This year however, Philips have suffered terrible losses, and are sacking thousands of employees. Yet PSV have continued to grow richer. The club's budget for this season is £6.5 million, £600,000 more than last season. These sums may seem paltry by Italian or even English standards, but it is important to realise that Ajax's budget is just £4 million.

Yet Ajax look favourites to win the league again. For once the Amsterdammers have managed to keep their side intact. Normally, if a player impresses at Ajax he is immediately snapped up by foreign clubs or PSV. But despite Ajax's enormous debts, the young stars Richard Witschge, Bryan Roy, Marciano Vink, Dennis Bergkamp and the De Boer twins have signed contracts binding themselves to Amsterdam for the next couple of years.

With their young side a year more mature, Ajax seem capable of warding off PSV again, although this Eindhoven team will prove more testing than last year's squabbling bunch. What a pity that Amsterdam's vandals have kept Ajax out of this season's European Cup.

In the last few years, Feyenoord started each season with a flock of new players. Every August, the club proudly presents its signings to the press, and some incautious director invariably predicts that Feyenoord will win the league. By November, the team is usually floundering, the new players have flopped, and as often as not the manager has been sacked. Last season Feyenoord finished a disgraceful eleventh in the league.

This year things should be different. For once the club have found good young footballers at low prices to fill the positions which needed filling. Henk Fraser of Roda Kerkrade, Ovidiu Sabau of Dynamo Bucharest, Ed de Goey of Sparta and Harry van der Laan of Den Haag seem safe bets for success. Feyenoord's aim in the league will be to take third place, which for the last three seasons has been occupied by Twente Enschede.

Twente have lost Pieter Huistra, their only international. The 23-year-old winger has joined Glasgow Rangers for £230,000. After the miserable season he had last year, he should not prove too great a loss. Twente have kept the rest of their side together, but have signed just one new player. Tom Kromnendijk, a young striker of undoubted talent but doubtful temperament, has joined the club from Feyenoord.

In the UEFA Cup, Twente have drawn Bayer Leverkusen, and the Dutch firmly expect to lose. Their ambition in the league is to retain third place, but above all to rid themselves of their reputation for dullness. Twente play a cautious defensive game, and their young team is gifted but uncharismatic. Theo Vonk, the manager, has proved a master at producing well-organised sides, but has always clashed with opinionated, individualistic players. He would have trouble with Paul Gascoigne, for instance. The result is that Twente's support has dropped while the club have risen in the league.

Lost players

Roda Kerkrade, in the UEFA Cup, and Vitesse Arnhem, in the Cup-winners' Cup, are Holland's other representatives in Europe. Roda have lost their two best players, Henk Fraser and John Van Loen, both occasional Dutch internationals.

Vitesse excelled last year on their return to the premier division, reaching the cup final (which they lost to PSV) and finishing fourth in the league. Young players like Bart Latuheru, Martin Laamers, Edward Sturing and John van der Brom astonished Dutch football. They will all be back this year.

Van der Brom in fact has signed a contract which binds him to Vitesse for 16 more years, until he is 40. The plan is that he will join the club's coaching staff when he retires. Wrangles between club and city council have delayed the construction of Vitesse's hypermodern new stadium, the AKZOdrome. The building should have been completed this winter. Now it is uncertain when (and even if) it will be ready.

At the bottom of the table, Heerenveen, NEC and Sparta Rotterdam are tipped for relegation. It is Heerenveen's first season ever in the premier division, and the club won promotion only thanks to the weird play-off system in the first division. Heerenveen went up despite finishing sixteenth in the league. The sole virtue of this system is that it leaves every side in the division with a chance of promotion, and so keeps the fans interested.

As for NEC, they were extremely lucky to stay up last season. They have signed several new players, including Ipswich Town's Mich D'Avray, but none capable of raising NEC from the deep.

It would be sad if, as seems likely, Sparta were relegated. Sparta, founded in 1889, are one of just four clubs who have always played in the premier division. But the side struggled even last season, and now they have lost their Ghanaian striker, Prince Polley, to Beerschot; Raymond Libregts, the son of Holland's former manager, to MVV; goalkeeper Ed de Goey to Feyenoord; while the veterans Rene van der Gijp and Piet Wijnberg are also leaving. More seriously perhaps, Sparta's sponsors Dixons have walked out, impatient at the amateurism of the club's directors.

NAC Breda and De Graafschap are favourites to win promotion to the premier division, though the play-offs have turned the first division into something of a game of chance. There are two new sides in Holland's lower division: VC Vlissingen and Dordrecht '90.

Vlissingen, formerly an amateur club, were admitted to the first division to become the only professional side in the south-western province of Zeeland. Dordrecht '90 are the phoenix from the ashes of DS '79. Kees den Braven, a millionaire businessman, has taken over the club and signed eight new players. With characteristic modesty, Den Braven has introduced a new club anthem which calls the team "Den Braven's boys".

Also in the first division, Emmen's players found a memorable way of protesting against their club's financial policy. Before a pre-season friendly against the amateurs of Bargeres, the team took the field carrying a banner which read: "Footballers Are Not Merchandise". When the match started Frank Veldwijk immediately scored a deliberate own goal. Emmen won 8-1.

Young Witschge has the world at his feet

FOR ONE Dutch international at least, the World Cup in Italy was a source of satisfaction. The 20-year-old Richard Witschge played in all four of Holland's matches, and showed that he can already cope. The next, apparently inevitable step, is that he will dominate.

On October 26, 1986 the left-sided midfield player made his debut for Ajax Amsterdam, who celebrated by beating AZ Alkmaar 6-1. Ajax's manager at the time was Johan Cruyff. He and Witschge are each other's greatest fans, and it is Witschge's dearest wish that Cruyff should become Holland's new manager.

It was after Cruyff left Ajax, in January 1988, that Witschge's

quarrels with the club started. Arnold Muhren, then in his mid-30s, had agreed to help groom Witschge as his successor. The idea was that the two would talk a lot about the game, rooming together on foreign trips so that Muhren could pass on his wisdom to the young genius.

But after a few months of this Muhren gave up, complaining that Witschge refused to listen. The problem was that Witschge is the most self-confident of footballers. As a teenager he would peremptorily demand the ball from much older, established teammates like Jan Wouters. His risky long passes and his willingness to take on defenders portray his faith in his ability.

It is this flair that Cruyff so admires. Witschge is one of those rare players who dares to take initiative, to lead a team.

Last season he led Ajax to the championship and won his first eight caps. Yet at the start of the season his manager, Leo Beenhakker, sent him to the second team. There had been a row within the squad: Beenhakker and the older players, Wouters and Danny Blind, had blamed Witschge's laziness and irresponsibility for Ajax's bad start.

Wrong food

Beenhakker labelled Witschge and his contemporaries in the team (Bryan Rooy and the De Boer twins) "the french fries generation": He meant that the young players eat the wrong food and generally shows too little commmitment to football.

"I don't even like french fries," Witschge retorted.

Since his return to Ajax's first team he has played magnificently. Beenhakker, who prides himself on his phychological skills, claims that he deliberately motivated Witschge by dropping him. Witschge, who admist to his respect for Beenhakker, denies his manager's interpretation.

Cruyff, now with Barcelona, is a far more important influence on his career than Beenhakker.

When he revealed this in the press it meant a public humiliation for Beenhakker. "I think Cruyff is the best in the world," Witschge says.

His play at the World Cup was sound but uncharacteristically cautious. "I often felt that I wasn't myself," he explains. "Not aggresive enough. I took far too few risks."

He played without the flair that has already attracted the likes of Milan, PSV and Cruyff's Barcelona. Witschge will spend another couple of years at Ajax before going on to greater things abroad.

DENMARK BY JIM HOLDEN

OB FACE DOUBLE DISASTER

DANISH champions OB are in grave danger of missing out on the first season of the new 'superliga' next year. The Odense club were bottom of the first division as this season passed the halfway mark, with only six points from 11 games.

It is an incredible transformation in fortunes for the club who – frighteningly, in the circumstances – play Real Madrid in the first round of the European Cup this month. That could be their farewell to the big-time.

Preben Elkjaer's Vejle are also perilously close to missing out on the superliga which comprises only 10 clubs instead of the present top division of 14. The top eight teams this season automatically go through to the superliga, the ninth and tenth placed clubs play off with the top two in the second division. Vejle lie tenth.

The new structure below the superliga is a 10-team first division and two 10-team second divisions split on an east-west regional basis. The changes are designed to improve playing standards among the newly professional clubs and, of course, hopefully continue the increase in attendances made so far this season.

Prebem Elkjaer.

Team of the year so far have been promoted Silkeborg, who led at the summer break. But a 2-0 defeat at Brondby left them three points behind the former champions. Despite losing many of their star internationals Brondby are nevertheless flourishing under new manager Morten Olsen.

He has introduced a tough new regime, with international goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel saying: "We have never worked as hard in our careers. But the methods seem to be working for us and obviously Morten has great experience and tactical awareness."

Schmeichel has been the subject to intense transfer speculation involving many foreign clubs including QPR and Manchester United. But the £1million price tage is proving the stumbling block to the move he would love to make.

Ironically, the biggest star of Danish soccer this summer has been a referee, 30-year-old Peter Mikkelesen. His impressive performance in a World Cup dogged by awful officials has marked him out as future referee of major finals.

That's always provided, of course, that the Danish national side do not make it themselves.

EAST GERMANY BY BOB VAUGHAN

'UNITY' FIGURES DON'T ADD UP

THE '2 plus 4' political formula for progress along the road to German unity was a success after the events of last winter. It seems '1 plus 1', the formula for football unity, is proving less straight forward.

Soccer, unlike other major and minor sports, seems in the West, under Hermann Neuberger, to have decided at an early juncture that 'All German Football' could wait until 1992.

There could well have been good planning reasons for this, as events have recently shown, but such has been the impetus that the ball rolling towards an FA for the whole country, a Bundesliga to include the East and immediate sporting ties could not be held up.

The coincidence of BRD and DDR being drawn in the same European Championship Qualifying Group lent more than a little picancy so DFB and DFV have had to sit down together rather more often and swiftly than perhaps Frankfurt-am-Main originally intended.

There was horror in the West when the East suggested withdrawing from Euro '92, now virtually a fait accompli, not only in Frankfurt but also in Brussels and Cardiff.

Whether the Belgian and Welsh FAs would rather lose some gate money than have East and West Germany playing the last match in the group around unification time is an interesting though now academic point, matters having moved so that one team out of four and not five will go through and the two Germanies will play friendlies, one in Leipzig, the other possibly in Hanover.

Within Germany the arguments rage over Bundesliga membership for clubs from the East, how the second division of the 'BL' will be formed and which modus will be adopted for promotion and relegation.

A further complication is whether the second league will be 'ein-oder zweigleisig,' in two groups or one.

Economic and geographical considerations are having to be weighed up and, also rather quickly, decisions made as to who qualifies for where next summer.

Will clubs from the East be up to Bundesliga football as they lost players to the 'Golden West', how many professional clubs are required, is a second division of 24 clubs viable and would it be possible to reform the Regional Leagues?

As in England clubs and their chairmen are varied and more or less reasonable or selfish in their views. It is idle to speculate but two looks the safest number of which to bet when it comes to DDR-Oberliga clubs joining the 'All German League'.

Candidates

On present form Dynamo Dresden and FC Chemnitz, no longer Karl-Marx-Stadt, would seem to be the most likely candidates.

FC Berlin still has to shed its Stasi image, Magdeburg could be challengers while a city the size of Leipzig look certain to be out in the cold.

No European football after a poor season and developments look to have put paid to Lok's chances. Old rivals, Chemie, recently reformed as Grun-Weiss, have merged with out of town Chemie Boehlen. The new club is going to be called FC Sachsen (i.e. Saxony) Leipzig and will play in the Leutzsch suburb on the Georg-Schwarz-Sportpark.

It gives Leipzig a second club, for 1990-91 at least, in th top flight but whether it is sense remains to be seen. There may be an element of spite, given the poor relations for years with Lok whose chairman, former player Peter Giessner, said, "This means the end in Leipzig."

He meant of top football but it looks like Chemie settling some old scores. The second division club brings 'Oberliga' football back to Leutzsch, having spurned Lok's offer to merge, and joined forces with Boehlen but the maximum this is likely to achieve is Bundesliga Two status though the new Saxon 'Green & Whites' will be depending heavily on local support and the number of places which will be available in the new all German set up.

Some experts are rightly pleading that the first eight clubs gain admission to the Bundesliga, the top two to 'BL 1', the following six to 'BL 2'. This would seem reasonable though in the West the question arises immediately: "How many clubs in total can we have or accommodate or suffer (given your or your club's point of view)?".

If it is eight, the East has a reasonable chance in the future. Thereafter must follow the structure below, possibly on the pre 1963 contract player system which might be better than the so called Amateur-Oberliga as it stands in the West.

For the moment the intention is that the DFV becomes Regionalverband Nordost (North East Region FA) but it is going to need some help and what of the Berline (West) FA as it currently exists?

Oh, yes, one or two things are also happening on the field. Blau-Weiss Berlin are playing their 'BL 2' games in the East of the city, the GDR national team won 3-2 in the return friendly with the USA and the number of East-West friendlies, exchanges of referees, local cross border matches at amateur level are too numerous and regular to relate.

SPAIN BY GRAHAM TURNER

Toshack transfer splash

Real Madrid were rocked by the departure of Vazquez to Torino.

A GLANCE at the list of main moves is a fair indicator that the Spanish close season has been an open market with a turnover far in excess of the modest trading that has marked recent summers.

John Toshack's Real Madrid have invested over £6m on five players in a bid to secure their sixth consecutive League title and the rest of the pack with, as usual, Barcelona and Atletico Madrid at the forefront, have strengthened their squads with a view to smashing the "meringue" monopoly.

Tosh's turnout was partly by volition and partly enforced by the controversial departure of midfield ace Martin Vazquez, who left for Torino against the wishes of Real's president, Ramon Mendoza.

West German midfielder Bernd Schuster and Argentinian World Cup defender Oscar Ruggeri were given golden handshakes costing Real another £2.5m, and the two vacant foreign berths were filled by Romanian playmaker Gheorghe Hagi and, after attempts to sign Des Walker from Nottingham Forest, by Yugoslavia's Predrag Spasic, already hailed in the Real camp as "the successor to Camacho".

"We were deceived by his baldness." Mendoza admitted when he presented Spasic to the Madrid media. "We thought he was the wrong side of 30. When we found out that he was only 25, we were in like a shot." Or if you prefer a more picturesque translation, it was like a Predrag to a bull.

The new blood could be a much-needed transfusion for a Real team blunted not only by Martin Vazquez's departure but also by the poor form of superstars Michel and Butragueno, who have ultimately caught the Ballesteros bug and levelled off well below their personal peaks.

Emilio 'The Vulture' Butragueno was flying so low after his anonymous World Cup campaign that he played a controversially small part in Real's pre-season run-outs.

As usual, Real's rivals are hoping that Toshack will take time in finding the new blend and that the club's European Cup obsession will divert attention from routine domestic squabbles. The challenges can be expected to come from the usual quarters.

Over at Atletico, firebrand president Jesus Gil has continued with his traditional pre-season routine of terrorising referees and drawing up his annual "blueprint for success". His fourth blueprint hinges on teaming up Portuguese superstar Futre plus Brazilian striker Baltazar with the Austrian hot-shot Rodax.

He did little to justify a £2.35m price tag during the World Cup, but has produced more impressive pre-season form for Atletico.

Javier Clemente, the coach who failed last year to convert Gil's third blueprint into monuments, has now returned to Bilbao "on a year's trial" as he puts it, after Manuel Lertxundi's triumph in the club's presidential elections.

Clemente feels that his young squad can challenge the big boys, although his first move was a scathing attack on his players' willingness to train hard. "Some of them don't even need a shower afterwards" he muttered.

But, as usual, Barcelona have dominated the headlines during a summer of discontent. Milla, Roberto and Valverde have walked out on Johan Cruyff.

Luis Milla, the 24-year-old midfielder, was first to go. He had looked a cert for the World Cup until he asked Cruyff to review his contract, valid until 1992. Cruyff refused to pay anything like the figure Milla wanted and, in order to pressurise the player into agreement, dropped him from the side. In May, national team manager Suarez claimed he couldn't pick him because he lacked match practice, and Milla's agent began divorce proceedings.

Milla posed for team photos at Barcelona's official presentation ceremony, but within 48 hours his agent presented a cheque for the £1.75m stipulated in the release clause in his contract, and while Cruyff and his men were flying off for two games in Japan and a ten-day training camp in Holland, Milla nipped off to Madrid and posed for another photo in the white shirt of arch-rivals Real, where he is now seen as the inheritor of Schuster's midfield distribution role.

Barcelona president Joseph Lluis Nunez was not amused but within days his tribulations had been tripled.

Firstly, winger Valverde, largely ignored during Cruyff's two-year regime, insisted on rejoining Clemente (his boss with former club Espanol) at Bilbao.

Then international midfielder Roberto let loose another bombshell by announcing that he was far from happy with the club's refusal to revise his £110,000-per-year contract (half the average earnings at Barcelona) and that, more especially, he was far from happy with Cruyff.

Last season Roberto was played in just about every position except goalkeeper although he has shown in training that he's no slouch between the posts, either.

Before you could say Joseph Lluis Nunez, Roberto did a Milla and bought his freedom with a cheque for the £1.7m stipulated in his release clause. A few hours later he was hammering down the A7 motorway to begin talks with Valencia, the club who sold him to Terry Venables in 1986.

With Roberto back, Valencia – ably managed by Victor Esparrago, and second best last season – could again mount a serious challenge to Real's supremacy.

Cruyff, whose managerial career is punctuated by disputes with top stars such as Rijkaard and Koeman, seemed unperturbed by the departures which he dismisses as "clearing away dead wood".

During a busy pre-season he carried out some fine tuning on his adventurous playing system convinced that this will be third season lucky in his chase for league honours.

The World Cup generated criticism of the widely-employed five-man defensive system, but Cruyff has answered adventurously. Sweeper Koeman now operates ahead of the two central defenders and winger Goikoetchea and midfielders Eusebio and Amor have been drafted into the full-back positions, guaranteeing that seven of the side are attack-minded players.

The first stern examination of the system comes in Barcelona's opening fixture. That's a derby against newly-promoted Espanol, now coached by former Atletico Madrid and Barcelona manager Luis Aragones.

Among some other intriguing managerial challenges – Argentine Hector Veira at Cadiz and Uruguayan Ildo Maneiro at Zaragoza, for example – the outstanding novelty is the appearance of Colombia's national team manager Francisco Maturana with modest Valladolid, now determined to progress under their newly- elected president, Gonzalo Gonzalo.

The answers to many fascinating questions will start appearing as from the kick-off on September 2nd.

Romania's World Cup star Gheorghe Hagi has joined Real Madrid.

Predrag Spasic is being hailed as Real's successor to Camacho.

MAIN TRANSFERS

PLAYER	FROM	TO	FEE
Rodax	Admira Wacker	At.Madrid	£2.35m
Milla	Barcelona	Real Madrid	£1.75m
Hagi	Steaua Bucharest	Real Madrid	£1.7m
Roberto	Barcelona	Valencia	£1.7m
Stoichkov	CSKA Sofia	Barcelona	£1.5m
Martin Vazquez	Real Madrid	Torino	£2.2m
Spasic	Partizan Belgrade	Real Madrid	£1.1m
Aloisio	Barcelona	FC Porto	£800,000
Juanito	Zaragoza	At.Madrid	£700,000
Atkinson	Sheffield Weds.	Real Sociedad	£1.7m
Richardson	Arsenal	Real Sociedad	£750,000
Valverde	Barcelona	Bilbao	£700,000
Jaro	Malaga	Real Madrid	£650,000
Villarroya	Zaragoza	Real Madrid	£1.1m
Goikoetchea	Real Sociedad	Barcelona	loan return
Sabas	Rayo Vallecano	At.Madrid	£325,000
Suarez	Danubio	Zaragoza	£235,000
Billabona	Real Sociedad	Bilbao	£280,000
Biurrun	Bilbao	Espanol	£225,000
Francisco	Sevilla	Espanol	£275,000
Tab Ramos	USSF	Figueras	£80,000
Jankovic	Valladolid	Oviedo	£165,000
Sirakov	Zaragoza/Levski Spartak	Espanol	£450,000
Makansky	Toulon	Malaga	£150,000
Mfede	Canon Yaounde	Figueras	£80,000
Nando	Sevilla	Barcelona	loan exchange
Unzue	Barcelona	Sevilla	loan exchange
Uralde	Bilbao	Coruna	£125,000
Pena	Valladolid	Zaragoza	£135,000
Lozano	Independiente	Valladolid	£200,000
Esteban	Real Madrid	Zaragoza	£125,000
Bustingorri	At.Madrid	Osasuna	free
Cholo	Sevilla	Osasuna	free
Ruggeri	Real Madrid	Velez Sarsfield	free

SWITZERLAND BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

Swiss banking on imports

Xamax have released Ryszard Tarasiewicz.

FOREIGNERS again dominate the Swiss championship. Another 17 imports have been engaged by the 12 First Division clubs, making a total of 48 from 24 countries. In the two top divisions there are 21 South Americans alone!

Most of the imports are no better than the Swiss, but the clubs obviously think that foreign names draw more spectators – a risky and costly calculation. In time the number of foreigners should be reduced, because the clubs have been advised to follow SFV instructions that no more than five players without a Swiss passport can be fielded.

Lausanne, the surprise runners-up last season, were the last to complete their foreign contingent. Voted Manager of the Year, Umberto Barberis signed the Czechoslovak Milan Fryda to close the gap in midfield caused by the departures of former international Georges Bregy and Reto Gertschen.

Released

Xamax, now under Roy Hodgson, the first English manager here in the modern era, have released Polish international Ryszard Tarasiewicz, who has signed for AS Nancy. But Xamax signed five new players, including former star international and Footballer of the Year Andy Egli from Grasshoppers, striker Christophe Bonvin, and Egyptian Tarek Soliman.

Servette, now under Gilbert Gress, who left Xamax and replaced Dutchman Ruud Krol, have transferred striker Phillippe Fargeon back to Bordeaux.

Lugano have signed Brazilian international sweeper Mauro Galvao from Botafogo.

YUGOSLAVIA BY MLADEN BILIC

Last-ditch rescue for Velez

YUGOSLAVIA'S first division was hastily expanded from 18 to 19 clubs – two days after the new season had begun.

The last-ditch development headed off the threat of yet another legal wrangle of the sort which provided two years of confusion in the wake of a match-fixing scandal three years ago.

Source of the trouble this past summer was a match between Dinamo Zagreb and Sarajevo last spring which was abandoned after 47 minutes when World Cup referee Zoran Petrovic was struck in the face by a full beer can.

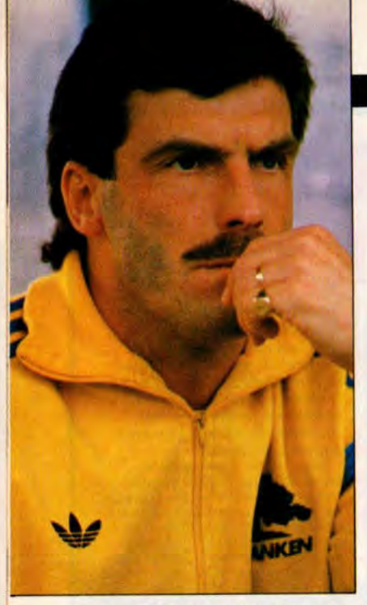
A federation disciplinary hearing awarded the match to Dinamo by 3-0. But Sarajevo appealed, the federation ordered a replayed match after the end of the season and Sarajevo won it 1-0. This pushed them from 17th up to 16th and safety, while Velez Mostar dropped down from 16th to 17th and into the second division.

Velez, who had battled hard to try to stay up, protested and went to court. The federation, fearful that FIFA would come down on them like a ton of bricks for allowing such a breach of standard regulations, immediately capitulated.

Though the season had already begun an extraordinary executive meeting was called which expanded the first division to 19 clubs and reinstated Velez alongside Sarajevo.

SWEDEN BY PENTTI HIETANEN

NORDIN SACKED BY SWEDES



AFTER Sweden's lacklustre showing in the World Cup finals, there was no new contract for national coach Olle Nordin.

Nordin, who was at the peak of his popularity only days before the big kick-off in Italy, took the news with stoic calmness. He even sent a telegram to the Swedish FA wishing them luck in their search of his successor.

The main case against Nordin was that with brilliant victories over second-rate countries like Wales and Finland, the Swedes had been lulled into false confidence. Nordin controversially put his faith in the Benfica pair of Mats Magnusson and Jonas Thern, although they were both carrying minor injuries, whereas the experienced Glenn Stromberg was used only sparingly.

There was a stinging attack on Nordin by the former star forward Ralf Edstrom, who claimed that the coach had over-trained his players with two long training sessions daily, even when the team was already in Italy.

Nordin's former number two, Nisse Andersson, will act as a caretaking manager of the national team until next January, when Tommy Svensson takes over on a permanent basis.

Legendary

Svensson, 45, has been coaching Tromso in Norway for the past two seasons. He is a former full international winger, who won 39 caps for Sweden and played in the 1970 World Cup finals in Mexico. He represented Osters IF and played professionally in Belgium for Standard Liege in 1971-73.

Svensson is a member of a football dynasty, for his father Stig was a long-time chairman of Oster and a legendary name in the Swedish game.

Rumour has it that Svensson was only fourth in the line of candidates preferred by the FA. The men that they really wanted, Sven-Goran Eriksson (Benfica), Roy Hodgson (Xamax Neuchatel) and Gunder Bengtsson (Feyenoord), were not willing to leave their clubs.

As expected, the World Cup finals in Italy earned a professional contract for striker Tomas Brolin, who has joined Italy's Parma. There was a long queue of clubs after the 20-year- old forward. In fact, Brolin's club IFK Norrkoping announced that they had stopped counting the phone-calls after 20 foreign clubs had declared their interest!

Tomas Brolin has left Norrkoping for Parma in Italy, disappointing a queue of other interested clubs.

Arsenal have signed midfielder Anders Limpar, whose Italian club Cremonese were relegated. Limpar, 24, is a skilful wide-playing midfielder, who loves nothing more than taking on opposing defenders. But whether his style suits the British game is another matter.

Limpar doesn't like the physical stuff, as one could see in Sweden's 2-1 defeat to Scotland. And he is not a midfield grafter, either.

Limpar, whose father hails from Hungary, played his football in Sweden for Brommapojkarna (Stockholm) and Orgryte, then moved to Switzerland's Young Boys Berne before joining Cremonese a year ago.

On the domestic scene top club Malmo are in trouble.

"The words crisis and Malmo FF just don't go together," says chairman Hans Bjorkman-Cavalli. But while he tries to put on a brave face, there is no denying that panic is slowly beginning to creep in.

Malmo, the league's number one team for the past four seasons, are faced by a bitter relegation battle. From 11 games they have amassed 11 points, exactly 11 fewer than league leaders Norrkoping (there are currently three points for a win). After MFF had lost 1-0 at home to fellow-strugglers Brage, the pressure on their new 'old' English coach Bob Houghton had become almost tangible.

Houghton, who managed Malmo in the late 1970s with splendid success, seems to have lost his Midas touch. His very return to Sweden from Kuwait was controversial, for there were still several unfinished economical disputes between Houghton and his previous Swedish club, Orgryte.

And, at Malmo, Houghton had to follow his old friend Roy Hodgson, who had become immensely popular among the fans and players. As soon as Malmo lost their first match there were instant cries for the return of Hodgson, who is currently coaching in Switzerland and who, ironically, was introduced to the Swedish game by Houghton himself.

In the 1970s Malmo, under Houghton, were notorious for their tight, defensive game with several Italian-style goalless draws and 1-0 victories. Now, with five draws and only six goals from 11 matches, the old days seem to have returned together with Bob –only the success is not the same any more!

Houghton argues that he had expected a troublesome season. Too many stars have been sold to foreign clubs. Last year Malmo lost their bright midfield star Jonas Thern to Portugal's Benfica. This summer World Cup defender Stefan Schwarz took the same route as Thern to Estadio da Luz, while winger Joakim Nilsson has been wanted by several Spanish clubs.

Important losses, no doubt about that, but they don't explain why those who have remained have lost nearly all their consistency. So far, only Jean-Paul Vonderburg in defence and Bent Skammelsrud, the Norwegian international midfielder, have shown anything like their true form.

"I need a new forward. We need that one important, decisive goal which will loosen up our game," Houghton says.

Sounds strange when you consider that Lars Larsson and Martin Dahlin, Swedish goal-kings in 1987 and 1988 respectively, are both still at the club, and Leif Engqvist and Hakan Lindman are no mean players, either.

Trouble seems to be the order of the day at the club, whom many had expected to be Scandinavia's standard bearers in the Champions' Cup.

SOVIET UNION

Protasov has left the Ukraine for the Greek sunshine.

ROMANIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

Stefanescu takes over at Steau

IT is all change among the top managers and coaches as the Mondiale and its heroes disappear into the sunset.

Anghel Jordanescu is leaving for Greece, Mircea Lucescu for Pisa and one report suggested Emerich Jenei would be taking a ticket for Old Trafford.

Dinamo, Steaua and the national team are finding it hard to appoint suitable replacements but Steaua, the former European champions, started training under Costica Stefanescu, the former international with 66 caps.

He says it will take time to build a new team but hopes to produce one in the same style of the recent successful seasons with similar results.

Dinamo have yet to find a new manager but how domestic football will replace Hagi, Lacatus, Lung, – who will be guarding the Turkish nets of Adanaspor – Rotariu and Raducioiu is hard to envisage.

At least they will be available to the new national team coach for competitive internationals.

The man most likely to be offered the post is Mircea Radulescu, who has been in charge of the Olympic squad for the last two years. The departing Jenei, reported to be taking early retirement on an army colonel's pension, leaves behind a record of 18 wins, 11 draws and 9 defeats over a four-year period of control.

He has declined offers from a number of Hungarian and Spanish clubs and seems glad to be out of the soccer jungle amid all sorts of rumours.

Hagi's on the move to Real Madrid.

Jenei's assistant, Cornel Dragusin, has also gone, grumbling that there has been just too much criticism to tolerate, pleased to quit his job for those who would like it.

Final decisions on the staff who will prepare the team for Euro '92 in Sweden await the elections to posts in the federation.

They also will have an effect on applications for permission to transfer players abroad. Federation secretary, Mircea Sandu, said recently that only Hagi (for Real Madrid), Rotariu (Galatasaray) and Raducioiu (Bari) have the necessary go-ahead.

POLAND BY BOB VAUGHAN

Stars on the run

AN EARLY start to the season was preceded by the usual transfer activity, most of it on the western front.

The position is most serious at Sosnowiec all of whose players are on the offers list. Nevertheless a home draw was achieved with Chorzow in the first game of the season which was goalless.

Most teams have lost good players to the West. Legia's Zbigniew Kaczmarek has left for an often favoured spot in the sun for Poles, Auxerre.

LKS Lodz' Jacek Ziober has decided to join Valderrama & Co in even sunnier Montpellier but for the moment Ziober can not manage a place in the front line and, ironically, LKS have not been able to replace him.

To some extent a 1-0 home win over Lublin on the opening day pacified supporters.

Less happy are 'Big Gornik' fans following the 2-1 reverse suffered in Katowice. Zabrze have let national team keeper Jozef Wandzik move to Panathinaikos where he joins another Polish international in Krzystof Warzycha.

Also en route for Greek championship action is Ruch's Miroslaw Bak, to join promoted Atniakos where he should strengthen the forward line.

In danger of suffering a real sell out are Lech. The Poznan club has already lost to the South, if not the West, one of its regulars, Jaroslaw Araszkiewicz who fancies a spell in Turkey.

Lech teammates Lukasik, Pachelski and Jankowski also have itchy feet.

An opening day home defeat, 2-1 by Slask, will not have boosted morale, though apart from Katowice and Slask hardly any other club will be happy with July 29, when five draws were recorded.

In the Champions' Cup Lech face a tricky tie with a second leg away to Panathinaikos but Legia must be the favourites in the CWC against Swift Hesperange.

BY BOB VAUGHAN

TSKA BAR KIEV'S PATH TO THE DOUBLE

THE ARMY club TSKA topped the table after half of the 1990 Elite League, now one of but 13 clubs.

It is already clearly a poorer championship without Dynamo Tbilisi, Zhalguiris Vilnius and Guria Lanchkuti, from the 'rebel republics' who have withdrawn from "All Soviet Football" competition and will play in either the Baltic League or the Georgian League.

Goalscoring seems almost more problematic than usual, over half the League's clubs averaging less than a goal a game.

With the introduction of play-offs at the end of the season between the bottom three sides and the top three in the Second Division, even those at the foot of the table with a lamentable record such as Rotor and Pamir will have a chance to maintain their status whatever their results in the second half of the programme.

At the top cup-winners Kiev are out for the double but facing stiff competition from the Moscow clubs occupying four of the first five positions.

Only Dnepr look to have much chance, apart from Kiev, of breaking this Moscow monopoly but with Mikhailichenko off to join Sampdoria in Genoa and Protasov taking his speed to Olympiakos the Ukrainians may have to remain content with one trophy.

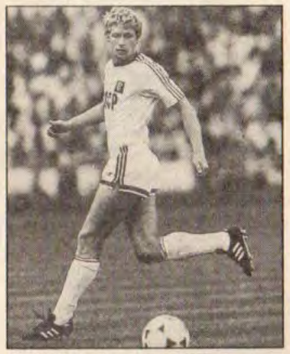
Attempts to prevent further transfers abroad may not be successful and current leaders TSKA, with a stable squad under Pavel Sadirin, a possible future national manager, could well beat off the challenge of Spartak and Torpedo.

TSKA also have the advantage of no European Cup commitments but will be hoping for this 'problem' in 1991-92.

Also concentrating on the League are Dynamo Moscow who are not helped by having lost manager Anatoly Bishovets to the 'Sbornaja' as successor to his old rival, Valery Lobanovsky.

Bishovets got the nod by eleven votes to nine from Eugen Kucherevsky, the Dnepr chief, a former Olympic team manager who has also had his ups and downs with 'Loba'. Bishovets has already spoken his mind on the poverty of the current championship and dullness of much of the football played.

Before the European Championship qualifying games with Norway on September 12 and Italy on November 3 around half the national squad are going to be put out to grass.



Mikhailichenko ... new life in Genoa.

As well as a rejuvenated team on the field, 'Loba's' behind the scenes men, Simonian, Morozov & Co are being replaced. In come vice-president Alexander Tukmanov, Gadyev, Bishovets's assistant in Seoul and a new administrative and medical staff.

TURKEY BY HASAN CEMALI

Milne hits money snag

FORMER England and Liverpool wing-half Gordon Milne is having financial problems with Besiktas, the reigning champions of Turkey.

Renewing contracts for the playing staff cost the club so much that they have been unable to sign any newcomers for 1990-91, and they kicked off with their former squad still intact.

But Besiktas still managed to fit in a visit to a training camp in West Germany for three weeks in preparation for the new season.

New manager Dzkan Sumer, back with Trabzonspor 15 years after first joining them, has signed nine newcomers, including Unal from Malatyaspor and three Yugoslavs – Petronovic, Ivanovic and Cukic.

Guus Hiddink has reorganised Fenerbahce and now has a huge squad of 30 players. His nine newcomers include defender Suphi from Burse and libero Gokhan from Ankaragucu. Ridvan is back, after his FOURTH cartilage operation.

DIARY

World Soccer's global news service conducted by Keir Radnedge

OBITUARY

FAHD AL-AHMAD AL-SABAH: Sheik Fahd, a half-brother of the Emir of Kuwait and a leading figure in world football and Olympic politics, died on August 2 after being severely wounded during resistance to the Iraqi army's invasion of Kuwait. He had been born on June 10, 1945 and was thus 45 – leaving a widow, Fadila, five sons and one daughter. The Sheik was elected to the International Olympic Committee in 1981, was re-elected amid controversy last year as president of the Olympic Council of Asia, surprisingly deposed Datu Hamzah as Asian Football Confederation president and thus became, at this summer's Rome Congress, a FIFA vice-president. He was "a political maverick," but Sheik Fahd's power base was to be found in sport despite a number of controversies. One concerned the financial administration of Kuwaiti football. The most memorable, however, occured during the 1982 World Cup finals. It was Sheik Fahd who, in full regalia, swept down from the VIP box to the pitch to sort out the trouble provoked by a French 'goal' which the Kuwait players considered offside. Sheik Fahd insisted later that his intention and gestures – widely misinterpreted at the time – was only to order his captain and players to carry on with the game.

JOE MERCER: Former Everton and Arsenal winghalf, former manager of Sheffield United, Aston Villa, Manchester City and England, who died on his 76th birthday. One of the most popular characters to have enlivened the English game. Tribute – See Page 22.

Kim Joo-sung.

FRIDAY, JULY 27

ACTION: South Korea beat Japan 2-0 in the opening match of the new Marlboro Dynasty Cup at the Workers Stadium in Beijing. Hwang Seon-hong and Kim Joo-sung score the goals ... in Hiroshima, Japan, Barcelona and a Japan League XI draw 1-1 in the JAL (Japanese Airlines) Cup. Soler scores after 25 minutes for Barcelona, Koichi Hashiradani after 50 minutes for the League XI.

AUSTRIA: Hugo Maradona may need surgery and lengthy rest because of a knee ligament injury which will delay his competitive debut for his new club, Rapid Vienna ... Cameroon World Cup hero Roger Milla signs for First Vienna on a £100,000-a-year contract.

BELGIUM: The Beerschot club admits to the truth of newspaper claims that the fraud squad had attended club offices to check the accounts and financial records. Newspaper reports had hinted at possible slush fund suspicions but these were denied by club officials. Beerschot owe £18,000 to city authorities.

FRANCE: Marseille beat Metz 2-0 away. Both goals follow fouls on new Yugoslav signing, Dragan Stojkovic. First Albert Cartier deflects a Stojkovic free kick into his own goal, then Jean-Pierre Papin converts a penalty ... Roby Langers, current Luxembourg player, signs to stay with Nice until 1993. He had received offers from Paris SG and Monaco ... Vagiz Khidiatulin, Soviet World Cup sweeper, leaves Toulouse to return home with Moscow Spartak.

ITALY: A major change in the hooliganism war: the federation decides to scrap the long-standing a tavolino rule by which a team whose fans are considered the 'innocent parties' of a hooliganism-interrupted match are awarded victory by 2-0. This rule was vital to last season's league championship for Napoli, whose April 8 match away to Atalanta was awarded to them after Alemao was struck by a coin thrown from the Atalanta fans. In future the home/offending side will be penalised by a loss of points but the victims will not receive extra points ... Juventus are threatened with a complaint to UEFA after reports in the Italian and English media that they are close to completing a £4million transfer deal with England defender Des Walker. His club, Nottingham Forest, are furious at the reports and threaten action against Juventus.

SATURDAY, JULY 28

ACTION: The United States lose their first post-Italy match, going down 2-1 at home to a weakened East Germany before a 12,000 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin ... New Zealand lose 2-1 in Christchurch to Lokomotiv Moscow, who thus square the three-match series between the teams with one game drawn. Lokomotiv have goalkeeper Vatziovas Yurkus sent off for manhandling referee Lennox Sharp after the Kiwis are awarded a penalty. Substitute keeper Hasanbi Bidzhiev saves the spot-kick.

AUSTRIA: The new league season opens with victories for Tirol (3-0 away to Alpine), FK Austria (4-2 over Wiener SC) and Rapid (2-1 away to Vorwarts).

FRANCE: Cameroon World Cup hero Francois Omam-Biyik scores both goals as Rennes beat Paris Saint-Germain 2-1. After two games Marseille and Monaco are the only teams with 100 per cent winning records.

SWITZERLAND: Brazil World Cup sweeper Mauro Galvao scores his first goal for Lugano in a fightback from 2-0 down to 2-2 away to Young Boys.

SUNDAY, JULY 29

ACTION: Barcelona beat a Japan League XI 4-2 in Tokyo to win the two-match JAL Cup series. Julio Salinas (two), Beguiristain and Amor score the Barcelona goals.

BRAZIL: Incredibly chaotic scenes erupt at the end of the Rio championship play-off final between Vasco da Gama and Botafogo. Botafogo lead 1-0 at the end of 90 minutes, claim the title and run a lap of honour before disappearing to the dressing rooms. Vasco claim extra-time must be played according to a rule change rushed through a fortnight ago. They wait half an hour then claim the title themselves and run their own lap of honour!

HUNGARY: Officials of Pecsi Munkas confirm that all 18,000 tickets for the Cup-winners' Cup tie against Manchester United have been sold locally.

POLAND: Champions Lech Poznan lose 2-1 at home to Slask Wroclaw on the first day of the new season.

UNITED STATES: Mario Montes de Oca, a player with the Jalisco club of Mexico, collapses and dies from a heart attack during a match in Austin, Texas.

MONDAY, JULY 30

BRAZIL: The Rio de Janeiro sports justice tribunal is empowered to decide the outcome of the championship after the ridiculous row on Sunday at the end of the Vasco v Botafogo tie.

PARAGUAY: The South American confederation executive votes 6-1 in favour of Chile staging the 1991 Copa America.

SPAIN: Real Madrid confirm that they have bought out the contract of Argentine defender Oscar Ruggeri, thus transfer-listing him, and that they have paid a domestic record £2million to buy midfielder Luis Milla from Barcelona – who had tried desperately to put together a variety of deals to keep him out of Madrid's clutches.

TUESDAY, JULY 31

ACTION: South Korea edge closer to victory in the Marlboro Cup third round by defeating China 1-0 in Beijing. The two teams must meet again in the title decider on Friday. North Korea finish third after defeating Japan 1-0.

BELGIUM: Top soccer doctor Marc Martens – specialist adviser to Ruud Gullit – decides to leave Leuven university for Antwerp after a row over research and project funding.

BOLIVIA: Bolivia federation officials say they are disappointed at failing with their bid to host the 1991 Copa America but will submit a bid for 1993.

CHILE: Chile soccer officials say they hope the 1991 Copa America hosting will help them persuade FIFA to lift the Rojas Affair punishments imposed by FIFA and which included a ban from the 1994 World Cup.

COSTA RICA: World Cup hero Juan Cayasso signs for West German second division club Stuttgart Kickers. Other Costa Ricans moving to Europe include goalkeeper Luis Conejo (Albacete, Spanish second division) and Hernan Medford and Ronald Gonzalez (both Dinamo Zagreb).

ENGLAND: Fourth Division Aldershot are wound up by court order with debts of £500,000 – the first league team forced out of business since Accrington Stanley 29 years earlier ... Southampton sign Soviet international defender Sergei Gotsmanov from Brighton. He will join forces in defence with compatriot Alexei Cherednik.

FRANCE: Bordeaux sell veteran West German striker Klaus Allofs home to Werder Bremen.

ISRAEL: The IFA veto British publisher Robert Maxwell's attempt to buy up and merge the Beitar and Hapoel clubs of Jerusalem. The IFA say it is too late to rearrange the fixture schedules. Maxwell says: "This was very stupid of them and I regret the damage to Israeli football."

ITALY: Relegated Udinese are handed a four-point penalty as punishment for former president Giampaolo Pozzo's attempt to fix the match against Lazio last April.

WEST GERMANY: Bayern Munich win the Supercup, beating Kaiserslautern 4-1. Bayern dominate from start to finish and score through Reuter, Kohler, Bender and Strunz. Kaiserslautern's consolation is scored after 62 minutes by Kuntz, who also misses a penalty.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1

EAST GERMANY: Erfurt are among clubs who, seeing the end of the next season bringing possible destruction in the wake of German unification, buy Hungary goalkeeper Peter Disztl, Czechoslovak Milan Nemec and Polish forward Zbigniew Fabinski.

ITALY: Lecce buy Soviet midfielder Sergei Aleinikov from Juventus ... Bologna loan Geovani to West German club Karlsruhe.

SPAIN: Real Sociedad splash out £1.5million on Sheffield Wednesday forward Dalian Atkinson.

Dalian Atkinson.

SWEDEN: The FA name Tommy Svensson, a former international and currently coach to Norwegian side Tromso, as prospective new national manager in successor to Olle Nordin. Svensson, 45, played 40 times for Sweden between 1967 and 1973, including the 1970 World Cup. He played most of his club football in Sweden with Osters Vaxjo before moving to Standard Liege in 1971.

WEST GERMANY: Sasha Nikolajewicz, at 16 one of the country's finest prospects, announces he has signed for a Soviet team as yet unnamed.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

ACTION: Liverpool and Fiorentina draw 0-0 in Massa in the Anfield club's first appearance in Italy since 1985.

KUWAIT: Asian soccer leader Sheik Fahd Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah dies while leading resistance to the occupying Iraqi force.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3

ENGLAND: Coventry take Uruguay's Jose Perdomo and Hungary's Zoltan Csuscanszky on trial.

HUNGARY: The federation confirm that, since the Nep stadium availability is doubtful, the friendly against England in September will be played at Wembley.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

AUSTRIA: FK Austria show no mercy to financially-moribund Krems, thrashing them 6-0.

FRENCH: Marseille and Monaco maintain their 100 per cent records. Marseille beat Caen 2-1 while Monaco defeat Montpellier 3-1.

WEST GERMANY: A shock defeat for Bayern Munich, who are beaten 1-0 in the cup first round proper by the third division part-timers and amateurs of Weinheim.

Roger Milla is joining FK Austria.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5

ACTION: Brondby's 2-0 home win over second-placed Silkeborg means they open up a three-point gap at the top of the table ... in Poland, Zaglebie Lubin go top thanks to a 2-1 home win over Lech Poznan ... in Yugoslavia the new season starts with champions Red Star beating Vojvodina 2-1.

BRAZIL: In the Sao Paulo state championship the game between Botafogo SP and Corinthians is abandoned after 89 minutes when Corinthians are awarded a penalty with the score at 1-1 and Botafogo fans invade the pitch. Two vain attempts are made to restart the game which is eventually called off 47 minutes later.

NORWAY: Lillestrom are beaten 3-0 by Liverpool in a friendly.

UNITED STATES: In a major surprise, Los Angeles lawyer Alan Rothenberg deposes Werner Fricker as president of the USSF. The voting in Orlando, Florida, is Rothenberg 343.9, Fricker 169.66 and Paul Stiehl 69.2. Afterwards Stiehl denounces FIFA for a "hostile takeover" – a clear reference to Rothenberg's pre-election claim that he was FIFA's chosen candidate. Rothenberg's takeover raises doubts about the USSF's HQ staying in Colorado Springs, about the World Cup '94 organisation's base remaining in Washington and about the future of national coach Bob Gansler, who had been given a vote of confidence after Italia '90 by Fricker.

MONDAY, AUGUST 6

ACTION: Flamengo of Brazil beat Real Sociedad of Spain 7-0 in a tournament final in Tokyo. Luiz Carlos Toffoli scores a hat-trick.

BELGIUM: Club Brugge beat FC Liege 7-6 on penalties after a 2-2 draw at 90 minutes in the domestic Supercup ... Mechelen sign Sweden midfielder Klas Ingesson from IFK Gothenburg despite the anger of IFK officials who claimed to have received a much better offer from Bayer Leverkusen. Ingesson, however, refused to move to West Germany.

HUNGARY: Videoton forward Zoltan Csucsanszky flies to England to begin his month-long trial with Coventry.

SPAIN: Johan Cruyff rules himself out of contention for the vacant post of Dutch national manager, though he says he would be interested in a role if Holland qualify for the finals of the 1992 European championship.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7

AUSTRIA: Andy Ogris hits a hat-trick as FK Austria beat Admira Wacker 5-0. FK Austria lead Rapid by two points at the top of the table.

BRAZIL: Vasco da Gama must face Chile's Colo-Colo in the South American Club Cup without star forward Bebeto, still suffering problems with the leg injury which restricted his World Cup finals appearances.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: United States World Cup defender Steve Trittschuh signs a one-year contract with Czechoslovak champions Sparta Prague.

ENGLAND: Mick Mills, former Stoke manager, has to scrap plans to fly out to take up a managerial post with Sporting Club of Kuwait.

FRANCE: Argentine World Cup Final midfielder Gabriel Calderon, whose contract with Paris Saint-Germain expired at the end of last season, signs on the 'dole' in the French capital because no other club has yet come in for him ... Monaco's 19-year-old defender Emmanuel Petit is named in the France squad for the August 15 friendly against Poland. The squad includes seven Marseille players.

JORDAN: An Iraqi Airlines plane, carrying 31 Iraqi footballers bound for a training camp in West Germany, lands in Amman.

ROMANIA: Coaches and officials form a first football managers' union in Romania.

WEST GERMANY: FIFA says the now-traditional match between the new World Cup holders and a Rest of the World XI in aid of Unicef, will be staged in the autumn of 1991 in West Germany ... coaches and players unite in shouting down proposals by Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder (Stuttgart president and conservative politician) that players who transfer abroad should be banned from playing for their country.

YUGOSLAVIA: An extraordinary executive meeting of the federation decides to reinstate Velez Mostar in the first division and thus expand it to 19 clubs. Velez, controversially relegated at the end of last season, had threatened legal action against the federation and had refused to play at the weekend in what would have been their opening match of the second division season.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8

ACTION: Iceland beat the Faroe Islands 3-2 in Torshavn in a friendly which serves both nations as a European championship warm-up ... in the South American club cup there is a major Brazilian disappointment as Vasco da Gama are held goalless in Rio by Colo Colo in a second round, first leg tie. Other games see Universidad Catolica beat The Strongest 3-1, Barcelona beat Progreso 2-0, Cerro Porteno held goalless at home by cup-holders Nacional of Colombia, and Defensor of Uruguay beaten 2-1 at home by Argentina's River Plate ... in Brazil, Palmeiras beat Novorizontino 1-0 to leapfrog over their rivals and into top spot in the Black Group of the Sao Paulo state championship. Bragantino lead the Red Group despite being held 1-1 at home by Ituano ... in Switzerland, leaders Lausanne and Zurich are both held 1-1 – Zurich at home by Lugano and Lausanne away to St Gallen.

ENGLAND: Zoltan Csucsanszky suffers a knee ligament injury after only 16 minutes of a friendly between Coventry and Burnley. Coventry immediate make arrangements for him to return home to Hungary to rest.

FRANCE: Bordeaux dismiss veteran Belgian coach Raymond Goethals. Aide Gernot Rohr takes over as caretaker.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9

AUSTRIA: Cameroon veteran Roger Milla denies reports of his imminent agreement to join French second division side Creteil and says he is merely awaiting a conclusion of financial negotiations with FK Austria.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Champions Sparta become the first eastern European side to sign a shirt-advert and sponsorship deal with the West German-based car manufacturer Opel, part of the General Motors group. Opel already sponsor Bayern Munich.

ENGLAND: Yugoslav international Branko Miljus is rejected after a trial by Leicester of the second division. He may now return to Hajduk Split ... Italian star Gianluca Vialli singles out David Platt for particular praise as Sampdoria arrive in London for the Makita tournament at Wembley involving Arsenal, Aston Villa and Real Sociedad.

SOVIET UNION: Kiev Dynamo announce a change of kit and colours. Instead of all-white or the blue-with-white mixture in shirt and shorts they will now use a specially-designed yellow-and-blue strip – the colours of the Ukraine.

UNITED STATES: National coach Bob Gansler says he will not worry about whether he is shortly to be replaced after the election of Alan Rothenberg to the USSF presidency.

WEST GERMANY: Hertha Berlin, back in the first division, lose their opening game 2-1 to St Pauli. Both St Pauli goals are scored by Czechoslovak World Cup men Ivo Knoflicek and Jan Kocian.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10

ACTION: In East Rutherford, New Jersey, the latest Marlboro Cup gets under way. Flamengo beat the United States 1-0 in one semi-final, Alianza of Peru beat Sporting Lisbon 1-0 in the other ... in the Makita International at Wembley, Sampdoria (holders of the Cup-winners' Cup) defeat Real Sociedad 5-3 on penalties after a 1-1 draw to earn a place in the final against Arsenal, who beat Aston Villa 2-0.

BULGARIA: Multiple title-winners CSKA sign a two-year sponsorship deal with the Italian pharmaceutical company. Sintopharm.

FRANCE: Nantes transfer-list Yugoslav forward Dragan Jakovljevic and open negotiations with Red Star Belgrade and Sarajevo ... in league action, Montpellier thrash Paris Saint-Germain 4-0 and Nice are held goalless at home by Cannes.

HUNGARY: Videoton schemer Zoltan Csucsanszky flies home from his luckless trial with Coventry facing the possibility of ten weeks out of the game after injuring a knee.

ITALY: Genoa announce the signing of Soviet World Cup forward Igor Dobrovolski from Moscow Dynamo. He will be their third foreigner (after Carlos Aguilera and Tomas Skuhravy) confirming the need to sell Jose Perdomo, currently on trial with Coventry.

ROMANIA: The federation elects a new presidency. Mircea Anghelescu is new honorary president, Mircea Sandu is executive president, Migur Florescu (the Deputy Prosecutor-general), Valentin Alexandru (Petrolul Ploesti vice-president) and Barbu Popescu (Sportul Studentesc vice-president) are the new vice-presidents.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11

ACTION: In the Makita final at Wembley, Sampdoria beat Arsenal 1-0 and Real Sociedad defeat Josef Venglos's Aston Villa 1-0 in the third place play-off ... the last East German league season begins with a 2-0 victory for champions Dynamo Dresden, despite having 'lost' five stars to the West, over Carl Zeiss Jena ... in France Marseille go clear at the top thanks to a 2-2 draw at Lyon and despite the expulsion of Brazil defender Mozer for knocking out Lyon's Colombian striker, Roberto Cabanas. Monaco, previously joint top, lose 3-1 at Nantes ... in Switzerland champions Grasshoppers beat St Gallen 2-0 ... on the opening full day of the West German league season, champions Bayern (after the previous week's cup humiliation) are held 1-1 at home by Bayer Leverkusen. The Leverkusen goal is a debut celebration for East German international Ulf Kirsten.

SOVIET UNION: The Soviet federation does another about-turn on the transfer of Alexei Mikhailichenko from Kiev to Sampdoria. After refusing to issue a transfer permit "because he is not yet 28," the federation says it will grant clearance for the transfer "because neither Kiev's managers nor the Ukraine federation object." In Glasgow, Kiev officials tell Rangers (whom they beat in a friendly) that skipper Oleg Kuznetsov cannot be transferred until November because Kiev need him for the championship run-in.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12

ACTION: Flamengo beat Alianza 1-0 in the final of the Marlboro Cup in East Rutherford, New Jersey. In the third place match the United States beat Sporting Lisbon 2-1. This is the US's victory since the defeat of Liechtenstein on May 20 ... in Bulgaria CSKA go down to a shock 2-1 defeat at Sliven on the first day of the season ... in Denmark, Brondby win 3-1 away to AaB to extend their lead at the top of the table to five points over B1903 and Silkeborg ... in Norway, Tromso win 2-0 away to Fyllingen to extend their lead over Molde (beaten 3-2 at home by Viking) to three points ... in Romania, champions Dinamo (still under that title) open their new league campaign with a 3-1 home victory over Petrolul Ploesti ... in Yugoslavia Velez, back in the first division amid controversy, lose their opening game 2-1 away to Dinamo Zagreb.

EAST GERMANY: Ulf Kirsten, a goal-scoring hero the previous day for Bayer Leverkusen against Bayern Munich, is voted Footballer of the Year.

ENGLAND: ITV claim to have tied up exclusive rights to Manchester United and Aston Villa's home ties in European competition this season.

ITALY: Diego Maradona flies back to Naples from Argentina, on time (!) for the start of pre-season training.

UNITED STATES: New USSF president Alan Rothenberg says national coach Bob Gansler's job is safe "at least for the next 60 days." Rothenberg also says that he would like an official involvement with Franz Beckenbauer.

MONDAY, AUGUST 13

AUSTRIA: National manager Pepi Hickersberger includes only 12 of his World Cup 22 in the squad to play Switzerland. Also included is Bruno Pezzey, selected to complete his playing career in one last international.

BELGIUM: Anderlecht say that Yugoslav veteran Milan Jankovic is threatening to quit the game rather than accept a transfer to Castellon of Spain, and that Iceland international Arnor Gudjohsen "has vanished" in a row over a new contract. General manager Michel Verschueren says: "It's the same old song. Every year he tells us what we propose is a starvation salary but I don't think £125,000 is all that bad." Cameroon: World Cup stars Stephen Tataw and Thomas Libih are revealerd as transfer targets for Scottish club Partick Thistle.

SWEDEN: Djurgarden set a league scoring record when they thrash local rivals Hammarby 9-1.

UNITED STATES: Six former officers of the USSF call on FIFA to inquire into the role of press officer Guido Tognoni in the run-up to the election of Alan Rothenberg as new USSF president.

SOCCER ON TV

SCREENSPORT

Saturday, September 1.
All times are BST
1700 Argentinian Football
Monday, September 3
1245 Argentinian Football
Tuesday, September 4
0900 Argentinian Football
Thursday, September 6
2000 Argentinian Football
2100 Top Team Spanish Football Game 1
Friday, September 7
0900 Top Team Spanish Football Game 1
1930 Top Team Spanish Football
Saturday, September 8
0230 Top Team Spanish Football Game 1
1100 Top Team Spanish Football Game 2
1700 Argentinian Football
Sunday, September 9
2300 Top Team Spanish Football Game 1
Monday, September 10
1300 Argentinian Football
1400 Top Team Spanish Football Game 2
Tuesday, September 11
0900 Argentinian Football
Thursday, September 13
2000 Argentinian Football
2100 Top Team Spanish Football Game 1
Friday, September 14
0900 Top Team Spanish Football Game 1
1930 Top Team Spanish Football Game 2
Saturday, September 15
0230 Top Team Spanish Football Game 1
1030 Top Team Spanish Football Game 2
1700 Argentinian Football
Sunday, September 16
2100 Argentinian Football
Monday, September 17
1300 Argentinian Football
1400 Top Team Spanish Football Game 2
Tuesday, September 18
0900 Argentinian Football
Thursday, September 20
2000 Argentinian Football
2100 Top Team Spanish Football
Friday, September 21
0900 Top Team Spanish Football Game 1
1930 Top Team Spanish Football Game 2
Saturday, September 22
0230 Top Team Spanish Football Game 1
0830 Top Team Spanish Football Game 2
Sunday, September 23
0345 Top Team Spanish Football Game 2
1800 Argentinian Football
Monday, September 24
1300 Argentinian Football
Tuesday, September 25
0830 Argentinian Football
1100 Top Team Spanish Football Game 2
Thursday, September 27
2000 Argentinian Football
2100 Top Team Spanish Football Game 1
Friday, September 28
0900 Top Team Spanish Football Game 1
1930 Top Team Spanish Football Game 2
Saturday, September 29
0230 Top Team Spanish Football Game 1
0930 Argentinian Football
1030 Top Team Spanish Football Game 2
1700 Argentinian Football
Sunday, September 30
Game 2

Ricardo Giusti, Independiente and Argentina.

EUROSPORT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1
9.00am FOOTBALL – THE WINNING FORMULA
9.00pm FOOTBALL: Preview of the Spanish season
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2
9.00am FOOTBALL – THE WINNING FORMULA: This series of training programmes aims to give youngsters a good grasp of the basic skills of football. Past and present soccer stars offer their tips.
12.30pm FOOTBALL: A preview of the Spanish season 7.00pm FOOTBALL: Soccer action from Spain
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
Midday FOOTBALL: Soccer action from Spain
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
5.30pm SPANISH GOALS: Multi-angle coverage of spectacular goals from soccer matches played in Spain.
7.00pm SPECIAL EVENT: THE NIKE SPORTS NIGHT – LIVE from the Olympiahalle in Munchen. Featuring Ian Rush, John Aldridge and Jim Leighton.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
10.00pm FOOTBALL: Preview of the EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
10.30pm FOOTBALL
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
9.00am THE WINNING FORMULA: Another chance for budding footballers to benefit from a coaching programme devised by Charles Hughes, the Football Association's director of coaching.
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
9.00am FOOTBALL – THE WINNING FORMULA
7.00pm FOOTBALL: Soccer action from Spain
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
Midday FOOTBALL: Soccer action from Spain
5.30pm SPANISH GOALS: Multi-angle coverage of spectacular goals from soccer matches played in Spain.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
11.00pm FOOTBALL: Action from the EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
10.30pm FOOTBALL
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
9.00am FOOTBALL – THE WINNING FORMULA
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
9.00am FOOTBALL – THE WINNING FORMULA
7.00pm FOOTBALL: Soccer action from Spain
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
Midday FOOTBALL: Soccer action from Spain
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
5.30pm SPANISH GOALS: Multi-angle coverage of spectacular goals from soccer matches played in Spain.
11.00pm FOOTBALL: The 1st leg of the U.E.F.A. CUP competition.
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
10.30pm FOOTBALL
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
7.00pm FOOTBALL: Soccer action from Spain
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
5.30pm SPANISH GOALS: Multi-angle coverage of spectacular goals from soccer matches played in Spain.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
11.00pm FOOTBALL: The EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP qualifying match between CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND ICELAND.
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
10.30pm FOOTBALL
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
9.00am THE WINNING FORMULA
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
10.00am THE WINNING FORMULA 8.00pm FOOTBALL: Soccer action from Spain

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How to Enter
When you have the answers to the three questions phone the WORLD SOCCER Hotline. Closing date for calls is Monday 24th September.

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★ Calls from 3rd September cost 33p/minute cheap rate and 44p/minute at all other times. If under 16 please ask your parent's permission before using the hotline.

All the usual WORLD SOCCER rules apply. Prizes will be awarded to the first ten correct entries examined after the closing date. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Questions

1. Who was the England manager before Ron Greenwood?
2. You all know Peter Shilton beat the international appearance record when he won his 125th cap against Italy in the World Cup Finals. But which club was Shilts playing for when he made his England debut against East Germany in 1971?
3. The most consecutive international appearances for England was the 70 made by which former captain between October 1951 and May 1959?

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b. Kate Bush
c. Prince Charles

"I DON'T WANT NO PONCY SOUTHERN DRINK"
a. Shaun Ryder
b. Billy Connolly
c. Marti Pellow, Wet Wet Wet

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ASIAN NOTEBOOK

FROM PAUL MOON

The question puzzling the World game

What's gone wrong in Asia?

THE first call came from the English language service of Radio Netherlands, just two hours after the 1990 World Cup finals had concluded.

My phone rang regularly for the next few days. Each time it was a soccer commentator in Europe and always the same questions were asked: "Why did Asia's representatives fare so badly at Italia '90?" and "What are the prospects for better performances in future Mundials?"

A far more pertinent query; one they were all too polite to ask, would have been: "How can Asia justify having two automatic representatives at the showpiece of international soccer?"

European concern is understandable. Several countries on the continent consider themselves to have been far more worthy of a place among the 24 in Italy than the woeful South Korea and United Arab Emirates and, understandably, resent being deprived of the playing and financial opportunities.

Influence

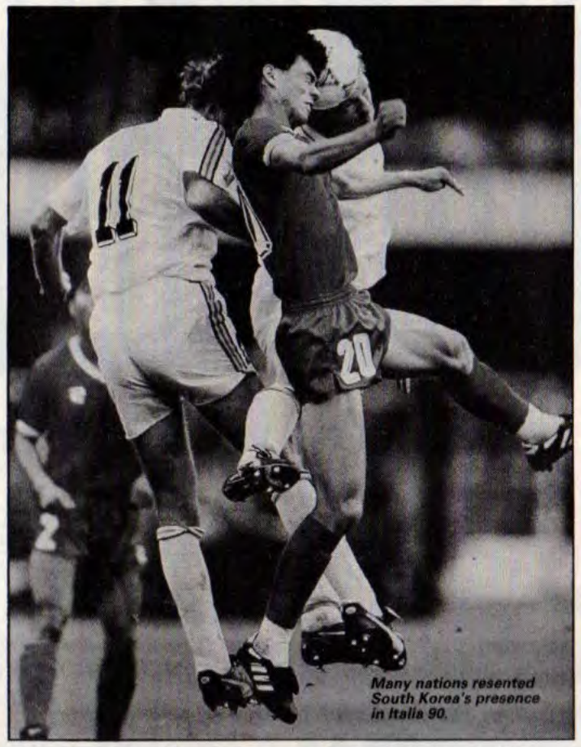
Almost certainly, Denmark, France, Hungary and Poland would have produced better displays this June than the Asian pair and, indeed, the same can be said of Paraguay and Chile; even Algeria, Australia and Israel. Sadly, Asia's quota is far more a reflection of its influence within FIFA than any prowess on the pitch.

Even after having had a further month to ponder upon the problem, it is hard to define reasons for Asia's stagnation since 1966, when North Korea gave the region such hope, and its current status as the backwater of world soccer. Some factors, however, are obvious.

In many respects, Asia remains outside the international football mainstream. The occasions Asian national tams meet their European counterparts are very few. Greater contact is crucial for development.

Those with genuine potential (Saudi Arabia and South Korea being the most obvious) must be prepared to visit Europe regularly and put their reputations on line in full international encounters – not indulge in meaningless, half-hearted, glorified training sessions cum matches against West German regional league teams, English League reserve or youth combinations and the ilk, as is generally the case now when foreign tours are undertaken.

It is, of course, nonsensical to expect superpowers Italy, West Germany, England, etc to host Asian sides at the present time (such mismatches would do absolutely nothing for the development of any team involved and produce pitiful gate receipts).



Many nations resented South Korea's presence in Italia 90.

Instead, eyes should be turned towards Malta, Cyprus, Turkey, Iceland; even San Marino. Scorelines may prove embarrassing at first, but would nonetheless provide an excellent barometer of progress and experience of real value. Once positive results have been gained, sights can be set higher.

The point could be made that international football in Africa has evolved admirably, despite similarly sparse contact with Europe.

Virtually all leading African national sides, though, can now call upon the services of several players with experience in European club soccer at a high level. This is not the case with the Asians; only South Korean Cha Bum-Kun having made any substantial impact beyond his own continent.

Cultural and language barriers tend to be far more difficult for Asians to overcome in Europe than Africans and the economic situation in the majority of Asia's leading soccer-playing countries is not as dire as that of much of Africa. European professional football's lure, therefore, is nowhere near as great and it is highly unlikely that any Asiatic country will ever have a pool of European-based professionals to call upon like, for instance, Cameroon, Nigeria and Zaire at the current time.

Another disadvantage is physique. Although one is always reluctant to dwell upon racial differences, it can not be contested, surely, that Asians, in general, tend to be less powerful physically than Europeans, Africans and South Americans – and modern international soccer is a very physically demanding game. Superior speed, flair and sheer skill would have to be developed to a remarkable degree in order to overcome such a handicap.

The old boxing adage about a good big 'un always beating a good little 'un can also be applied to soccer; albeit to a lesser degree, and is the major reason why we will probably never see an Asian team win the World Cup.

What Asian soccer does have in its favour are a large population base, the Asian Football Confederation's administrative acumen and the enviable financial resources enjoyed by many national associations in the region.

Asia's future will probably hinge upon just how strong the desire for improvement is. If its officials begin devoting as much time and energy towards the development of playing standards as they have in the past to politics, then considerable improvement should be evident by the time America '94 comes around.

Another successful shield defence for Canterbury

CANTERBURY gave their best performance of the New Zealand season when thrashing Franklin 4-0 and successfully defending the Winfield Shield for the fourth time.

Franklin, who included eight players from prominent Air New Zealand League side Manurewa and three veterans who appeared in the 1982 World Cup finals, promised a stern challenge but were sunk by goals from Danny Halligan, Paul Nicholls (2) and Allan Carville – all scored wihin the opening 50 minutes.

Unfancied Al Foutoua triumph in Syria

THE 1989-90 Syrian League Championship will be remembered primarily not for the first ever success by little Al Foutoua from the northern provincial city of Deir-Al-Zour, but rather the incredible climax to the campaign which brought about this unexpected triumph.

When the only other contender, Al Karama, defeated Al Foutoua 1-0 before 30,000 delighted fans in their penultimate game (a match considered to be of such importance by the Syrian FA that three World Cup final referees officiated; two running the lines), the Hons club appeared to have clinched the title. They now had a two point advantage and a goal difference superior by seven.

But, incredibly, lowly Al Jihad were thrashed by six goals in Deir-Al-Zour while, at the same time, dethroned champion Jabala defeated Al Karama 1-0. Thus, the two top sides had the same number of points and identical goal differences but Al Foutoua were declared champion by virtue of having scored four goals more!

Majed sees off giantkillers

MAJED Abdullah lived up to his nickname, the 'Pele' of the Desert, when snatching the two goals by which Al Nasr defeated Al Taawon in the annual showpiece of Saudi Arabia's domestic season, the King's Cup Final.

The Kassin based club's dreams of becoming the first Division Two winners of the trophy were smashed by Majed's strikes in the 21st and 62nd minutes.

ACTION PACKED ANNUALS

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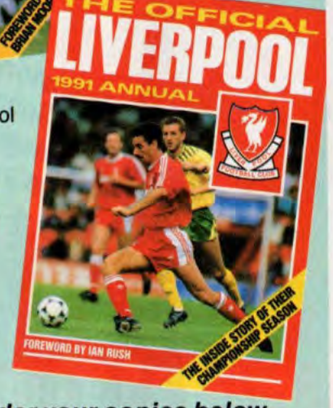

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LETTERS

The West Germans ... looking like winners right from the start.

World Cup better than Dallas and Dynasty

SIR – HAVING grown up with ice-hockey and American football in sports-crazy America, I have never ever in my wildest dreams thought that I would one day get hooked to soccer – the most popular sport on the planet.

Having lived and worked in Hong Kong for almost two years where soccer is the No.1 spectator sport, I hadn't developed any interest in soccer until World Cup 90 hit centre stage in Italy this early June.

Each team has its own personality and each player has his own style. Yet the most impressive and entertaining teams were no doubt West Germany, Italy, Cameroon and England with the Germans looking, acting and playing like the champs right from the first whistle.

Starting from young goalkeeper Bodo Illgner right up to those ferocious strikers, the entire German team worked diligently and performed brilliantly throughout the finals (with occasional lapses which were understandably human).

It's a shame they had to face the Argentinians (who, apart from Goycochea, were a drag to watch) in the final, and after 90 minutes of grabbing, tripping, wrestling, elbowing and maiming, the Germans were forced to win ugly.

But there was consolation for me, this rookie soccer fan. The semi-final clash between England and Germany was a beauty with both teams showing skills and hearts. If only that were the World Cup final.

Now that I think about it, I don't quite understand why, ever since I was a kid, Uncle Sam always told me that soccer was a bore. A bore? With Valderrama's hair, Milla's jiggling acts, Maradona's spread-eagled dives and names like Sabanadzovic and Muhammed Salim Mubarek?

You've got to be kidding. Even "Dallas" and "Dynasty" have less drama and fewer memorable characters than the World Cup! – RITA TANG, Hong Kong.

P.S. Your magazine is simply brilliant!

Brazil miss Elzo

SIR – HAVING finally recovered from the familiar shock of seeing Brazil flop in a World Cup tournament, it occurred to me that a very good midfielder from the 1986 team, Elzo, was missing from the squad.

In 1986 he didn't have many opportunities to show off his attacking skills as he spent most of the games covering the midfield as Junior, Alemao and the defensively lazy Socrates ran up into the attack.

Looking at Dunga's performance in this tournament (his susceptibility to elementary dribbling tricks and his wild tackling) one can only ask oneself, "surely there must be a better and more stable player for Dunga's position?"

What has happened to Elzo's career since he was dropped from Benfica's first team? – ROBIN THOMPSON, Hopkinson Ave,Brooklyn,New York,USA.

Back to 1982, please

SIR – THE 1990 World Cup has put to question the suitability of deciding important matches by penalty shoot-outs. Funnily enough when West Germany beat France on penalties in the 1982 semi-final, there was no such reaction.

However in Italia'90 and also Mexico'86, the high frequency of drawn results during the knockout stages has led to a lot of dissatisfaction on the penalty shoot-outs. In my opinion the real problem lies in the format that FIFA has chosen to adopt. Having a knockout system from the second round onwards certainly increases the likelihood of penalty shoot-out situations. The logical thing to do would be to adopt a format that reduces the possibility of such situations.

FIFA had an excellent format in the 1982 World Cup. Only the winners and runners-up qualified for the second round which was broken into four groups of three teams, with the winners of each group qualifying for the semi-finals. This also avoids the currently ambiguous situation of the third placed teams of the first round qualifying "through the back-door".

In the 1982 format a penalty shootout situation could only occur at the semi-final stage. This would also mean that the players will not be overtaxed by too many 'extra-time' games.

In both formats (82 and present) 52 games are still played. With all the absurdities of the present format. I sincerely hope a return of the 82 format will be considered.

On another note, I'd like to congratulate you on an excellent magazine. It is in my opinion the finest English-language soccer magazine in the world. – VYNER NUNIS, Boon Lay Drive, Singapore.

Far too cautious

SIR – I have been an avid soccer fan for as long as I can remember and have followed the sport through all of its recent peaks and nadirs. Now living in the States, I have been often irritated by the ignorance that Americans show for the subtleties of the game. I have come across all sorts of suggested rule changes to make it palatable to Americans. Ten or fifteen years ago the notion of international soccer being boring would have been an absurd concept.

In the last few years however, a certain conservatism and cautiousness has set into the game which was unheard of before. The style of play of many teams at this last World Cup illustrates this. There used to be an unwritten rule in soccer, especially in British soccer that one did not pass the ball excessively backwards, especially to the goalkeeper.

These days, this tactic is routinely used to waste time and deflate an opponents attacks. When defenders engage in that silly business of passing the ball back and forth between themselves, opposing players seldom go after them knowing that the defender with the ball will simply turn and pass it right back to his goalkeeper. I invite you to examine any number of slow, tedious games, especially from this disappointing last World Cup and I'm confident you will realize that the slowed pace is caused by the option that defenders have of passing back to their keeper.

I consider soccer the finest sport on the planet and I frown on the attempts there have been on the part of the Americans to tinker with goal sizes, offside rules, number of players etcetera, however the backpass to the keeper is killing this sport.

Soccer should take a cue from basketball which introduced the shot clock when games got too conservative and from ice hockey where a goaltender must immediately give up the puck or else take a face-off in his zone. If Americans are ever to appreciate this game, slow, boring contests must be eliminated.

Another issue which has caused a great deal of controversy is the use of penalty kicks after overtime. No-one likes them, but no one seems able to come up with a fair alternative. The idea of using total number of corner kicks is unsatisfactory since they are not a good enough indication of who played a better game. There is, however something which is probably the best indicator around and which would encourage more attacking, better play: Good shots on goal!

A good shot is one which causes the goalkeeper to dive or which the keeper is unable to handle clearly, i.e. one that rebounds off his body or his hands due to the power of the shot. Also, of course, one that bounces off the goal posts and returns into the field of play, or out of the field of play. – CHARLES K. TAGOE, Quint Ave, Allston Ma.02134,USA.

Don't knock the Dutch

SIR – WHAT has been said and written about Holland is savage. In an otherwise abysmal World Cup, they produced four of the best games, and perhaps THE best in their clash against the Germans.

So they didn't reproduce the feats of 1988. Asking that from a team with a half-fit captain, a striker who played more games and took more knocks in one season than anyone else around him, and a manager of only a few weeks at the post, was criminal.

That games against Germany could've gone either way. The Dutch were not second best, and I always knew that the winner of that match would go all the way. At any rate, we saw a hair raising game.

England's Pearce chases Makanaky of Cameroon. Were they praised too highly?

Even though I am not taking anything from the Germans (they deserved a quarter final spot more than Holland) the men in Orange at least reassured me that attacking football still exists and they will reach at least the semi-finals of the 1992 European Championships. – CARLO ARADIAN, Compton Crescent, North York, Ontario, Canada.

Deplorable divers

SIR – THE World Cup final between West Germany and Argentina was a bitter ending to the competition and it was typical of the competition as a whole: bad refereeing, defensive football and acting by players to get free kicks and to get opposition players sent off or cautioned.

FIFA need to revert to the 1982 World format of six initial groups of four teams each, with the top two out of each group going on to the second stage of groups which comprised of four groups of three teams with the top team out of each group qualifying for a semi-final, and of course the winner of each semi-final contesting the final.

At the last two World Cups we have been forced to have the tedium of the top three teams going through in most of the groups and then going to the other extreme of one to one knock outs from the eighth-finals onwards.

Something also needs to be done about referees: not to mention linesmen, they might as well have called up lollypop ladies to run the lines in Italy. Dives and feigning injury by players is something that they have got to be able to spot and mete out some kind of punishment for. – JOHN GOSLING, Woodville Drive,Stockport.

Over-rated Cameroon

SIR – I really don't understand what the great deal about Cameroon is. Ok, they pulled an upset or two out of the bag. Ok, they reminded us of romanticism in football with true spirit and a 38-year-old striker who struck more goals than the entire celebrated Dutch attack. Ok' (and hats off for this one) they even played some football against England. Take nothing away from them; it was the most any 500-1 outsider could have achieved in a world cup.

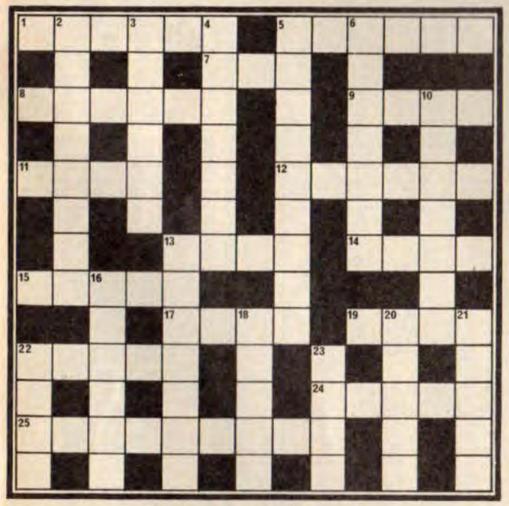
However, people seem to be getting carried away and taking the whole deal a little out of bounds. The truth is they got their wins the ugly way. There was nothing fascinating about their football at all (and I exclude their performance against England in this argument).

They kicked and tripped the life out of Argentina and Rumania. Then they changed tactics as if they thought they could win matches without kicking their opponents out of them. They kept the foul count down ... and lost 4-0!

Round 2: One of the easier teams in the second round, and our friends were still second best. An act of stupidity presented Cameroon with the tie on a silver platter. And now the papers were singing praises of the first African nation to reach the quarter finals.

Ironically the end of the road came after they played a genuine game of football. They deserved to beat England. In the end, however, justice was done, because Cameroon are not among the best four football teams in the world (neither are Argentina or England for that matter).

For passion and determination, the colourful Africans deserve full marks. For skill and subtlety, however, the Indomitable Lions have taken a lot more praise than necessary. – JEFF ROSS, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada.



WORLD SOCCER CROSSWORD
Compiled by Barry Talbot

ACROSS
1. Famous Italian sweeper.
5. See next clue.
7 & 5 Across. Legendary German player.
8. Scorer in the 1966 World Cup Final.
9. Bayern scorer in the 1987 European Cup Final.
11. Brazilian winger of the Sixties.
12. Valentin, ex-Russian forward.
13. Aston Villa utility player.
14. 1961 winners of the UEFA Cup.
15. Italian League side.
17. Old Evertonians, Trevor and Jack.
19. ..... Park, home of Dundee FC.
22. Top Scottish goalkeeper.
24. Former Man. United player from the Continent.
25. Soviet midfield player.

DOWN
2. One of the many Atletico Madrid coaches.
3. Former QPR & Newcastle defender.
4. They beat East Germany to qualify for Italia 90.
5. Nickname of the team who play at Bloomfield Road.
6. Top Danish striker of the Eighties.
10. Don, leading Second Division striker.
13. Star defender in Benfica's European Cup winning side.
16. Dutch ref of France v West Germany's 1982 thriller.
18. Winners of the 1972 League Cup Final.
20. ..... Arantes Do Nascimento, alias Pele.
21. Haitian scorer in the 1974 World Cup.
22. Pair of Scottish footballing brothers.
23. Street on which you'll find St. Mirren.

Answers next month

August Answers

ACROSS: 1. Roker. 4. Arsenal. 7. Ure. 8. Greenhoff. 9. Vitosha. 10. Olney. 11. Eastoe. 15. Thon. 18. Falcao. 21. Libregts. 22. Spora. 23. Flamengo. 24. Antic.
DOWN: 1. Rougvie. 2. Kieft. 3. Regis. 4. Alemano. 5. Sinton. 6. Alfredo. 12. Adamson. 13. Tacconi. 14. Mowbray. 16. Nilsson. 19. Olaf. 20. Agana.

PEN PALS

SCOTTISH MALE, 25, seeks penpals worldwide. Hobbies are football, travelling, table tennis and writing. Write to: Alide N'Deen, Hepburn A5, St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland. KY16 9LW

28-YEAR-OLD AMERICAN male journalist, seeks British penpal of same age. Hobbies include physical fitness, reading, rock'n roll, travel and football. Write to Chris Dennehy, 20 Sylvan Way, Dover, N.J. 07801 USA.

15-YEAR-OLD FOOTBALL FAN wishes to correspond with fans of all ages, male or female, especially from Europe. All letters answered. Please write in French, German, Italian or English to: Paul Hare, 5 Heath Road, Strathclyde, Scotland. ML9 2JE

17-YEAR-OLD GIRL, would like male pen pals worldwide, particularly in Europe aged 16-18. Supports Bayern Munich, Inter Milan and W. Germany. Write to: Sonia Munro, 58 Childwall Valley Road, Liverpool L16 4PE, England.

18-YEAR-OLD NIGERIAN BOY, seeks penpals worldwide. Hobbies are: pop music, football and corresponding. Please write to: Jonathan Okoye, No. 50 Niger Avenue, Sabon-Gari, Kano, Kano State, Nigeria.

NIGERIAN BOY, 18, wishes to correspond with others from all over the world. Hobbies include football and pop music. Write to: Elochukwu Sir Pin, Plot 8, Abuja Road, (Opp) Sanigiwa Street, S/G, Kano, Kano State, Nigeria.

17-YEAR-OLD FEMALE soccer fan seeks Inter-Milan supporters, preferably from Italy. Also supporters from Germany. All letters will be answered. Write in English or German to: Michelle Fonnereau, Sparrowe's Nest Farm, Henley Road, Ipswich, Suffolk. IP1 6TB

PAKISTAN MALE, hobbies football and cricket, seeks pen pals worldwide. Please write to: Mohammad Naim Ray, Mohalla Husnana Abad, Street No 3, House No 83, Mian Channun, (District) (Khanewal), Pakistan.

MALE STUDENT, 18, seeks pen pals worldwide. Hobbies are: sport, music, travelling and reading. Write to: Kishor Rajbmandari, 10/222, Yalachhizn Tole, Bhaktapur – 10, KTM – Nepal.

ENGLISH BOY, 13, wishes to correspond with boys or girls worldwide. Supports Everton and AC Milan and enjoys disco and rapping music. Please write to: Kieren Bean, 48 Chatto Road, Torquay, Devon, TQ1 44U England.

SCOTTISH BOY seeks penpals anywhere except Scotland. Write to: Graham Oliphant, 6 Moorfield Gardens, Springfield House, Springfield, Nr. St. Andrews, Scotland.

ROMANIAN MALE, 16, wishes to correspond with soccer fans from West Europe and United States. Supports Steaua Bucharest. Please write in French, English or Romanian to: Liviu Herta, Bd. Ion Sulea 82, Bloc M2A, Sc.A, Apt. 21, Sector 3, Bucharest 70583, Romania.

EXCHANGE

BUY, SELL AND EXCHANGE videos (VHS) of football, boxing, other sports and concerts. Write to: Jesus Ma Lebrero Infante, Avda Guadalquivir no 11, Piso 11 D. 11012 Cadiz, Spain.

BELGIAN BOY, 17, seeks collector in order to exchange World Cup, European Cup etc football tickets. Write to: Leblanc Jean-Francois, Rue Nationale 22, 4370 Waremme, Belgium.

AMERICAN SOCCER FAN seeks to swap soccer videos (Pal, Ntsc and Secam) with football fans worldwide. Please write to: Zigmund Hamburger, 1330 Skyline Dr. 37, Monterey, CA 93940. USA.

COLLECTORS

FRENCH COLLECTOR of pictures, yearbooks, postcards, programmes, books etc would like to correspond with other collectors worldwide. All letters answered. Please write to: Herve Michael, 46 Rue Berzout, 75014 Paris, France.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE RESULTS

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL CUP (Inter-Toto)

Final tables

Group 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
X Neuchatel	6	5	0	1	9	2	10
Sparta	6	4	1	1	13	9	9
Lyngby	6	2	0	4	9	12	4
Admira	6	0	1	5	7	15	1

Group 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tirol	6	4	1	1	12	6	9
Bochum	6	3	1	2	8	6	7
St Gallen	6	3	1	2	8	7	7
Slavia Sofia	6	0	1	5	3	12	1

Group 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lech Poznan	6	5	0	1	15	7	10
Maccabi Haifa	6	3	2	1	14	5	8
Siofok	6	2	1	3	5	9	5
Y Tel-Aviv	6	0	1	5	5	18	1

Group 4	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovan	6	4	1	1	17	3	9
Vejle	6	4	1	1	11	9	9
Norrkoping	6	1	2	3	9	16	4
MTK/VM	6	1	0	5	5	14	2

Group 5	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Malmo	6	3	2	1	10	4	8
Kaiserslautern	6	2	3	1	11	9	7
Energie Cottbus	6	3	1	2	10	10	7
Bohemians	6	0	2	4	2	10	2

Group 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GAIS	6	3	2	1	13	7	8
Brondby	6	3	1	2	15	11	7
Karlsruhe	6	2	1	3	12	12	5
Hansa R	6	2	0	4	7	17	4

Group 7	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Luzern	6	4	1	1	13	8	9
Plastika Nitra	6	2	3	1	8	5	7
Orebro	6	2	2	2	10	8	6
Tatabanya	6	0	2	4	7	17	2

Group 8	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vienna	6	3	2	1	7	5	8
Aarhus	6	2	3	1	6	3	7
Vasas	6	2	2	2	4	5	6
Gefle	6	0	3	3	3	7	3

Group 9	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chemnitz	6	3	2	1	4	2	8
Sturm Graz	6	2	3	1	9	3	7
F D'dorf	6	2	2	2	6	6	6
Petrolul Pl	6	1	1	4	6	14	3

Group 10	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayer Uerdingen	6	3	2	1	11	7	8
Dl Ljubljana	6	2	2	2	10	8	6
FC Berlin	6	2	1	3	7	9	5
Grasshoppers	6	1	1	4	6	14	3

Group 11	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Odense BK	6	2	4	0	12	6	8
Pirin Bl	6	3	2	1	8	5	8
Osijek	6	2	1	3	9	10	5
Sportul	6	0	3	3	6	14	3

Dates
Week ending
Sunday, July 22

FRANCE
Marseille 1 (Papin 73), **Nice 0.** Att: 32,000.
Monaco 2 (Mendy 9, Weah 53), **Toulon 1** (Anziani 65). Att: 8,000.
Sochaux 1 (Madar 80), **Brest 1** (Ferrer 88pen). Att: 4,000.
Nantes 0, Caen 0. Att: 10,000.
Toulouse 0, Auxerre 0. Att: 15,000.
Paris SG 2 (Susic 84pen, Vujovic 89), **Nancy 1** (Martin 53). Att: 18,000.
Saint-Etienne 0, Rennes 0. Att: 12,000.
Cannes 2 (Micciche 29, Guerit 90), **Montpellier 1** (Blanc 60pen). Att: 10,000.
Metz 2 (Hinschberger 80, Asanovic 82), **Lille 2** (Perilleux 5, Nielsen 46). Att: 10,000.

Week ending
Sunday, July 29

AUSTRIA
DSV Alpine 0, Tirol 3.
Vorwarts 1, Rapid 2.
FK Austria 4, Wiener SC 2.
St Polten 2, Admira Wacker 1.
Sturm Graz 4, Austria Sz 0.
Vienna 2, Krems 2.

FRANCE
Lyon 1 (Masson 87), **Cannes 0.** Att: 25,000.
Auxerre 0, Monaco 1 (Petit 74). Att: 17,000.
Rennes 2 (Omam Biyik 8, 16), **Paris SG 1** (Bravo 80). Att: 15,000.
Lille 1 (Perilleux 65pen), **Nantes 1** (Robert 9). Att: 7,000.
Montpellier 2 (Xuereb 31, Blanc 33pen), **Sochaux 0.** Att: 10,000.
Nancy 0, Brest 0. Att: 15,000.
Caen 2 (Den Boer 76, Divert 86), **Bordeaux 0.** Att: 11,000.
Toulon 3 (Bernardet 57, 84, Zahoui 87), **St-Etienne 0.** Att: 6,000.
Nice 1 (Mege 56), **Toulouse 1** (Acosta 86pen). Att: 8,000.
Metz 0, Marseille 2 (Cartier og 5, Papin 65pen). Att: 12,000.

SWITZERLAND
Midweek:
Grasshoppers 1, Zurich 2.
Aarau 1, Wettingen 0.
Sion 1, Luzern 0.
Lausanne 2, Servette 0.
Lugano 0, St Gallen 0.
Young Boys 1, Neuchatel Xamax 1.

Weekend:
St Gallen 1, Neuchatel 1.
Young Boys 2, Lugano 2.
Luzern 2, Lausanne 2.
Servette 2, Sion 1.
Wettingen 0, Grasshoppers 3.
Zurich 1, Aarau 1.

Week ending
Sunday, August 5

AUSTRIA
St Polten 0, Wiener SK 2.
Alpine Donawitz 0, Rapid 0.
Vienna 2, Admira 1.
FK Austria 6, Krems 0.
Sturm Graz 2, Tirol 1.
Vorwarts 1, Austria Salzburg 0.

FRANCE
Marseille 2 (Cantona 13, 80), **Caen 1** (Dangbeto 82). Att: 35,945.
Monaco 3 (Rui Barros 19, Diaz 39, Sonor 42), **Montpellier 1** (Xuereb 88). Att: 12,000.
Brest 0, Rennes 0. Att: 13,997.
Toulouse 3 (Marcico 56, 76, Acosta 82), **Lyon 1** (Bouderbala 6). Att: 9,766.
Paris SG 4 (Bravo 40, 58,, Susic 54pen, Zlatko Vujovic 73), **Toulon 0.** Att: 11,577.
Bordeaux 1 (Lizarazu 69), **Lille 1** (H Nielsen 85). Att: 15,285.
Nantes 1 (Duedec 35), **Metz 1** (Pauk 87). Att: 7,000.
Cannes 0, Auxerre 3 (Kovacs 14, Roche 58, Scifo 82). Att: 9,000.
Sochaux 1 (Madar 78), **Nancy 0. Att: 4,833.**
Saint-Etienne 1 (E Mendy 57), **Nice 0.** Att: 10,315.

SWITZERLAND
Aarau 1, Servette 1.
Grasshoppers 0, Young Boys 0.
Lausanne 4, Wettingen 0.
Lugano 1, Luzern 2.
Neuchatel 0, Zurich 1.
Sion 1, St Gallen 1.

WEST GERMANY
Midweek.- Supercup: Bayern Munich 4 (Reuter 6, Kohler 19, Bender 28, Strunz 45), **Kaiserslautern 1** (Kuntz 62). Att: 27,000 (in Karlsruhe).

Week ending
August 12

AUSTRIA
Midweek:
FK Austria 5 (Zsak 5, A Ogris 52, 58pen, 82, Schneider 43), **Admira 0.**
Sturm Graz 1 (Petrovic 12), **Rapid 1** (Keglevits 53).
Vorwarts 3 (Madliener 20, 40pen, Kocian 31), **Tirol 3** (Danek 1, Pacult 70, Westerthaler 74).
DSV Alpine 0, Austria Sbg 4 (Bierhof 21, 44, Garger 39, Kurbasa 49).
Vienna 0, Wiener SC 4 (Dallos 41, 76, Bleyer 43, Gager 51).

BELGIUM
Midweek.- Supercup: Club Brugge 2, FC Liege 2 (7-6 pens).

EAST GERMANY
Sachsen Leipzig 0, Chemnitz 0.
Vorwaerts 3, Chemie Halle 3.
RW Erfurt 4, FC Berlin 0.
Energie Cottbus 1, Stahl B'burg 1.
Dresden 2, CZ Jena 0.
Hansa Rostock 1, Eisenhuttenstadt 1.
Magdeburg 1, Lok Leipzig 1.

FRANCE
Nantes 3 (Youm 38, Ouedec 44, Henry 87), **Monaco 1** (Weah 89). Att: 22,000.
Lyon 2 (Cabanas 36 pen, Bouderbala 78), **Marseille 2** (Cantona 22, Papin 27). Att: 40,000.
Lille 3 (Brisson 32, 82, Nielsen 75pen), **Toulouse 0.** Att: 10,000.
Rennes 1 (Paillard 89), **Nancy 0.** Att: 10,000.
Auxerre 2 (Prunier 18, Kovacs 55), **Saint-Etienne 0.** Att: 13,000.
Caen 2 (Rio 70, 89), **Sochaux 0.** Att: 9,000.
Toulon 1 (Pineda 21), **Brest 2** (Ginola 17, Milojevic 44pen). Att: 8,000.
Metz 1 (Asanovic 83), **Bordeaux 0.** Att: 9,000.
Montpellier 4 (Bosser og 1, Baills 43, Blanc 68, 72pen), **Paris SG 0.** Att: 15,040.
Nice 0, Cannes 1. Att: 13,000.

SWITZERLAND
Midweek:
Young Boys 2, Aarau 2.
Wettingen 0, Sion 0.
Zurich 1, Lugano 1.
St Gallen 1, Lausanne 1.
Servette 1, Grasshoppers 3.
Luzern 0, Neuchatel 1.

Weekend:
Grasshoppers 2, St Gallen 0.
Aarau 2, Luzern 2.
Lugano 0, Servette 0.
Lausanne 4, Zurich 2.
Neuchatel 2, Wettingen 0.
Sion 2, Young Boys 0.

WEST GERMANY
Bayern Munich 1 (Effenberg 83pen), **Bayer Leverkusen 1** (Kirsten 64). Att: 42,000.
Koln 1 (Higl 82), **Fortuna D'dorf 1** (T Allofs 58). Att: 28,000.
Eintracht Frankfurt 3 (Binz 28, Yeboah 61, Turowski 86), **Karlsruhe 0.** Att: 29,000.
Hamburg 1 (Furtok 56pen), **Kaiserslautern 3** (Ernst 17pen, Lelle 75, Kuntz 76). Att: 23,600.
Borussia Mg 1 (Stefes 41), **Bochum 2** (Kempe 14, Peschel 60). Att: 17,500.
Wattenscheid 2 (Fink 38, Sane 84), **Werder Bremen 0.** Att: 10,000.
Borussia Dortmund 0, Stuttgart 3 (Walter 38, 45, 78).
Hertha Berlin 1 (Rahn 27), **St Pauli 2** (Knoflicek 47, Kocian 50).
Nurnberg 1 (Dittwar 26pen), **Bayer Uerdingen 1** (Passlack 21).

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FK Austria	3	3	0	0	12	3	6
Rapid	3	2	1	0	5	2	5
Sturm Graz	3	2	0	1	7	3	4
Vorwaerts	3	2	0	1	4	6	4
Vienna	3	1	1	1	5	6	3
Krems	3	1	1	1	4	8	3
FC Tirol	3	1	0	2	5	4	2
Austria Salz	3	1	0	2	6	7	2
Wiener Sport	3	1	0	2	4	6	2
DSV Alpine	3	0	2	1	1	4	2
St Polten	3	1	0	2	3	8	2
Adm Wacker	3	0	1	2	3	5	1

FAROES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HB	10	5	4	12	1	12	14
B36	10	5	2	3	17	12	12
KI	10	4	3	3	18	21	11
MB	10	4	3	3	18	17	11
GI	10	4	2	4	19	12	10
TB	10	3	3	4	10	12	9
VB	10	3	3	4	13	15	9
B71	10	2	5	3	8	12	9
TB	10	4	0	6	10	15	8
SIF	10	3	1	6	11	17	7

FINLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
K Lahti	16	10	4	2	25	8	24
Rovaniemi	16	9	5	2	21	11	23
HJK Helsinki	16	8	4	4	29	21	20
KUPS Kuopio	16	7	5	4	18	15	19
Valkeakoski	16	6	6	4	20	25	18
R Lahti	16	5	7	4	26	13	17
MP Mikkeli	16	4	7	5	15	19	15
Tampere	16	5	4	7	28	27	14
TPS Turku	16	3	8	5	16	15	14
OTP Oulu	16	3	6	7	10	19	12
KPV Kokkola	16	4	3	9	9	19	11
Kuusankoski	5	16	0	5	11	7	32

ICELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Valur	7	5	1	1	13	6	16
Fram	7	4	1	2	14	3	13
IBV	7	4	1	2	9	11	13
KR	7	4	0	3	11	9	12
Vikingur	7	3	2	2	8	7	11
FH	7	3	0	4	11	10	9
IA	7	2	2	3	8	11	8
KA	7	2	1	4	7	11	7
Stjarnan	7	2	1	4	7	13	7
Thor	7	1	1	5	4	11	4

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Molde	12	8	2	2	17	9	26
Tromso	12	7	2	3	20	12	23
Brann	12	6	4	2	18	10	22
Viking	12	6	3	3	19	12	21
Rosenborg	12	5	4	3	28	18	19
Lillestrom	12	5	2	5	19	12	17
Fyllingen	12	4	5	3	14	12	17
Start	12	5	1	6	26	20	16
Kongsvinger	12	3	4	5	9	21	13
Stromgodset	12	3	1	8	13	30	10
Moss	12	1	4	7	11	21	7
Vaalerenagen	12	1	4	7	12	29	7

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zagl Lubin	3	2	1	0	3	1	5
Z Sosnowiec	2	1	1	0	2	0	3
Katowice	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Ol Poznan	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Slask Wroclaw	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Igloopol Debica	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
Gornik Zabrze	2	1	0	1	4	3	2
H Cracovie	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Z Bydgoszcz	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
LKS Lodz	2	1	0	1	1	1	2
Wisla	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Rach Chorzow	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Stal Mielec	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Legia	3	0	1	2	1	4	1
Lech Poznan	2	0	0	2	2	4	0
Motor Lublin	2	0	0	2	0	2	0

SOVIET UNION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
TSKA Moscow	12	7	3	2	20	9	17
Spartak	12	7	2	3	24	13	16
Kiev	12	6	3	2	16	5	15
Moscow Dyn	12	6	3	3	13	10	15
Dnepr	12	4	5	3	14	11	13
Torpedo	11	5	3	3	10	10	13
Ararat	12	4	3	5	10	10	11
Chernomor	12	5	1	6	10	12	11
Shakhtjor	12	3	4	5	7	14	10
Metallist	12	2	6	4	4	12	10
Minsk	12	3	3	6	11	15	9
Pamir D	12	3	3	6	10	14	9
Rotor V	12	1	3	8	6	21	5

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IFK Norrkoping	9	5	3	1	19	7	13
Orebro	8	5	2	1	13	6	12
Oester	8	5	1	2	12	10	11
IFK Goteborg	9	4	2	3	11	1	10
AIK	9	5	0	4	9	16	10
Gais	8	3	2	3	9	5	8
Djurgaarden IF	9	3	2	4	14	11	8
Malmo FF	9	2	4	3	5	7	8
Halmstad	9	3	1	59			
					11	7	
Oergryte	8	3	1	4	8	12	7
IK Brage	9	0	5	4	6	11	5
Hammarby	9	2	1	6	12	20	5

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Marseille	4	3	1	0	7	3	7
Monaco	4	3	0	1	7	5	6
Rennes	4	2	2	0	3	1	6
Auxerre	4	2	1	1	5	1	5
Lille	4	1	3	0	7	4	5
Caen	4	2	1	1	5	2	5
Nantes	4	1	3	0	5	3	5
Brest	4	1	3	0	3	2	5
Montpellier	4	2	0	2	8	5	4
Paris-SG	4	2	0	2	7	7	4
Lyon	4	1	2	1	4	5	4
Metz	4	1	2	1	4	5	4
Toulouse	4	1	2	1	4	5	4
Cannes	4	1	1	2	2	5	3
Sochaux	4	1	1	2	2	5	3
St-Etienne	4	1	1	2	1	5	3
Nice	4	0	2	2	1	3	2
Toulon	4	1	0	3	5	8	2
Bordeaux	4	0	2	2	1	4	2
Nancy	4	0	1	3	1	4	1

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brondby	13	9	3	1	23	4	21
B 1903, Cop	13	6	4	3	23	14	16
Silkeborg	13	6	4	3	20	13	16
Frem, Cop	13	4	7	2	20	12	15
AGF, Aarhus	13	5	5	3	12	13	15
Ikast	13	5	4	4	15	12	14
Naestved	13	4	5	4	12	14	13
Herfolge	13	4	5	4	11	14	13
AaB, Aalborg	13	4	4	5	13	16	12
Vejle	13	2	6	5	12	15	10
Lyngby	13	3	4	6	13	17	10
OB, Odense	13	3	4	6	9	13	10
Viborg	13	3	3	7	10	18	9
KB, Cop	13	2	4	7	7	25	8

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tromso	15	10	2	3	28	15	32
Molde	15	9	2	4	20	14	29
Viking	15	8	3	4	26	17	27
Brann	15	7	5	3	23	15	26
Rosenborg	15	7	4	4	36	20	25
Start	15	7	1	7	31	23	22
Fyllingen	15	5	5	5	18	19	20
Lillestrom	15	5	2	8	20	19	17
Kongsvinger	15	4	5	6	14	26	17
Stromsgodset	15	5	1	9	18	34	16
Moss	15	2	4	9	14	28	10
Valerengen	15	2	4	9	15	33	10

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lausanne	5	3	2	0	13	5	8
Grasshopper	5	3	1	1	9	3	7
Neuchatel	5	2	2	1	5	3	6
Sion	5	2	2	1	5	3	6
Aarau	5	1	4	0	7	6	6
Zurich	5	2	2	1	7	7	6
Lucerne	5	1	2	2	6	7	4
Young Boys	5	0	4	1	5	7	4
Lugano	5	0	4	1	4	5	4
St Gallen	5	0	4	1	3	5	4
Servette	5	1	2	2	4	7	4
Wettingen	5	0	1	4	0	10	1

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Red Star	2	2	0	0	4	2	4
Radnicki	2	2	0	0	3	1	4
Zemun	2	2	0	0	2	0	4
Buducnost	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
Partizan	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
Sarajevo	2	1	0	1	3	1	2
Rad	2	1	0	1	3	2	2
Spartak	2	1	0	1	2	2	2
Proleter	2	1	0	1	2	2	2
Dinamo	2	1	0	1	2	2	2
Olimpija	2	1	0	1	1	2	2
Zeljeznicar	2	0	2	0	2	2	1
Hajduk	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Velez	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Osijek	2	0	1	1	0	1	0
Borac	2	0	1	1	0	1	0
Rijeka	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Vojvodina	2	0	0	2	2	4	0
Sloboda	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Brazil's Renata.

SOUTH AMERICAN AND CENTRAL AMERICAN LEAGUE TABLES

BOLIVIA – National Championship
Section A – San Jose 13 points, Oriente Petrolero 11, Bolivar and Jorge Wilsterman 10, Ciclon and Real Santa Cruz 5.
Section B – The Strongest 10, Independiente 9, Destroyers 8, Blooming 5, San Pedro 3.

URUGUAY – First Division
After 3 games: 1) Bella Vista, Central Espanol 6 points; 3) Danubio, Liverpool 4; 5) Nacional, Penarol, Progreso, Cerro 3; 9) Wanderers, Defensor Sporting, River Plate 2; 12) Racing, Huracan Buceo 1; 14) Rentistas 0.

PARAGUAY – First Division (2nd round – final) 1) Cerro Porteno 16 points; 2) Olimpia, Atletico Colegiales 13; 4) San Lorenzo 12; 5) Libertad, River Plate, Sport Colombia, Sportivo Luqueno 11; 9) Nacional, Atletico Tembetary 9; 11) Guarani, Sol de America 8.

ECUADOR – First Division (1st stage – 2 games to go)

	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
Nacional	20	11	8	1	43	16	30
Deportivo	20	9	8	3	34	16	26
Barcelona	20	10	4	6	40	23	24
Emelec	20	9	4	7	25	18	22
Dep.Cuenca	20	7	8	5	31	22	22
Liga Dep.Uni.	20	7	7	6	22	22	21
Delfin	20	7	7	6	22	22	21
Tecnico Univ	20	9	2	9	27	28	20
Aucas	20	6	6	8	27	33	18
Filanbanco	20	5	7	8	18	24	17
Macara	20	5	4	11	13	39	14
Juventus	20	1	3	16	14	53	5

BRAZIL – Sao Paulo State Championship (4th stage)
Red Group: 1) Palmeiras, America 6 points; 3) Portuguesa, Guarani, Novorizontino 5; 6) XV Piracicaba 4; 7) Ferroviaria 0.
Black Group: 1) Bragantino 7; 2) Corinthians 6; 3) Botafogo 5; 4) Ituano 4; 5) Santos 3; 6) Mogi Mirim, XV Jau 2.

PERU – Metropolitan Championship (2 games to go)
1) Universitario 15 points; 2) Sport Boys, Alianza Lima 12; 4) Union Huaral 11; 5) Sporting Cristal, Defensor Lima, AELU 9; 8) Internacional 8; 9) San Agustin 7; 10) Municipal, Octavio Espinoza 6; 12) Meteoro 5.

GUATEMALA – First Division
1) Comunicaciones, Chiquimulilla 14 points; 3) Municipal 12; 4) Galcasa 11; 5) Suchitepequez, Del Monte, Aurora 10; 8) Juventud Retalteca 9; 9) Tipografia Nacional 8; 10) Escuintla, Xelaju 7; 12) Deportes Jalapa 6. (Leading scorer: Roberto Mendez, Chiquimulilla 11)

HONDURAS – First Division
1) Espana 23 points; 2) Marathon, Olimpia 19; 4) Motagua, Platense 15; 6) Sula 12; 7) Vida, Super Estrella 11; 9) Tela-Timsa 9; 10) Victoria 6.

MAJOR CLUB INTERNATIONALS
"Copa Amistad" in Santiago, Chile – July 19: Colo Colo (Chile) 0 Sao Paulo FC (Brazil) 0; Universidad de Chile 2 Flamengo (Brazil) 1; July 21: Sao Paulo 2 Universidad de Chile 0; Colo Colo 2 Flamengo 0 – Standings: Colo Colo & Sao Paulo 3 pts, Univ. Chile 2, Flamengo 0.

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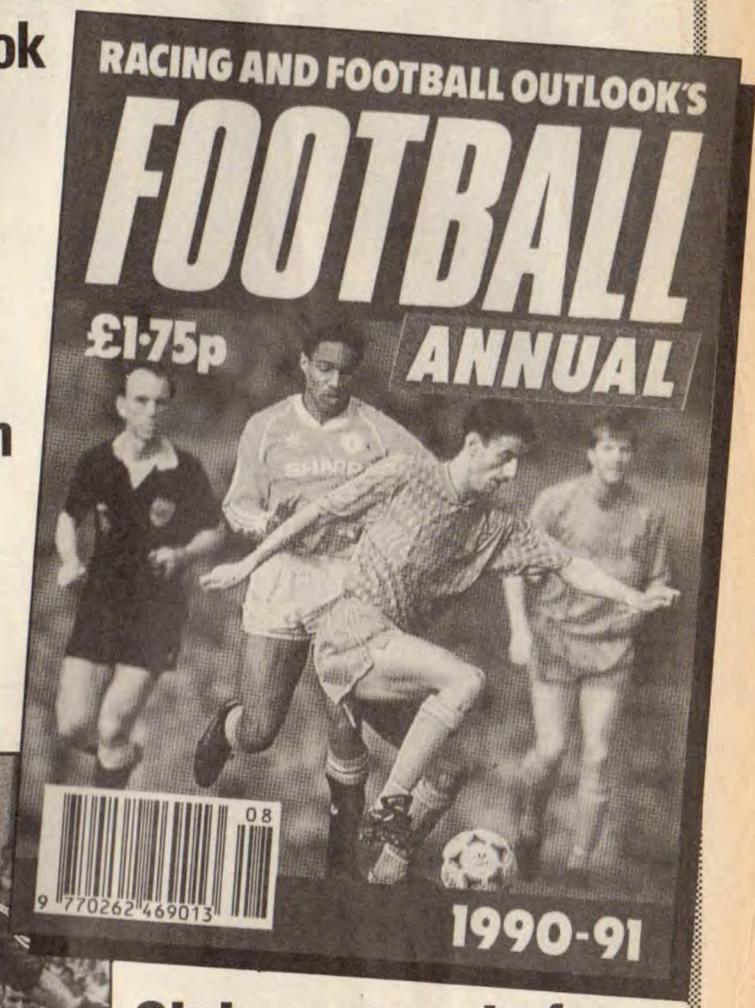

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DON'T WRITE ME OFF

warns PUMPIDO

BY KEIR RADNEDGE

Down and out ... Pumpido lies injured during the match in Naples.

FATE was cruel to Nery Alberto Pumpido at the World Cup finals.

But Argentina's World Cup-winning goalkeeper from Mexico '86 has promised that he will be back in league action before the end of the year.

Pumpido was the luckless victim of confusion in the Argentine defence in the first round match against the Soviet Union in Naples at this summer's World Cup. As he and his colleagues scrambled to foil a neat inter-passing attack, so Pumpido's right leg was broken as he was unfortunately trodden on by his own fellow defender, Julio Olarticochea.

The rest is history: Pumpido was carried off, Argentina survived to win the match and substitute keeper Sergio Goycochea earned a worldwide reputation for defying some of the most experienced penalty-takers in the game.

But Argentina goalkeepers have a tradition for longevity and endurance which Pumpido is determined to maintain. After being flown home to Buenos Aires less than a week after his injury, he promised: "I will be back. The doctors tell me sometimes this is an injury which is hard to overcome. But I have made up my mind. I believe I owe it to my Argentine team-mates, to my family, to my friends and to myself.

"That was no way to say goodbye to football."

Pumpido, contracted to the Spanish club Betis, is living proof that Argentina maintain not only a roaring export trade in star forwards, but a profitable line in goalkeepers as well.

Julio Cozzi, the most spectacular South American goalkeeper of his era, left Argentina for Colombia and the pirate league there in the late 1940s; Rogelio Dominguez starred with Real Madrid's European Cup-winning side of the 1950s; Daniel Carnevale was a hero with Las Palmas in the 1970s; Matildo Ubaldo Fillol a hero of Spain's Atletico Madrid and Brazil's Flamengo in the early 1980s.

Indeed, it was Fillol's wanderlust which eventually ruled him out of national team contention and opened the door for Pumpido, his long-serving reserve.

Pumpido had been born in a significant year for Argentina soccer, on July 30, 1957, when the national team achieved one of their most famous triumphs in the South American championship. Victory was earned thanks to the brilliance of a inside forward trio nicknamed the Trio de la Muerte – the Trio of Death. Shortly afterwards all three – Humberto Maschio, Antonio Valentin Angelillo and Omar Enrique Sivori – decamped to Italian clubs.

Their achievements were a part of Argentine soccer folklore by the time Pumpido first signed professional for the Union club in his home town of Santa Fe. That was 1976 and he was then 19. Four hard-working years later Pumpido was at last summoned to join the national squad for training work under the legendary then manager, Cesar Luis Menotti.

Record

A year later, in 1980, Pumpido was brought to the capital, Buenos Aires, by the respected but unfashionable first division club, Velez Sarsfield. He may not have been first choice for Argentina but he cost a domestic record price for a goalkeeper. Velez paid Union £200,000 plus four players in part-exchange.

As for Pumpido, he went on from strength to strength and straight into the squad named to defend the World Cup in Spain in 1982. Here, however, he had no chance to shine. Fillol's experience earned him an unshakable grip on the top spot – to say nothing of the other long-serving squad keeper, Hector 'Chocolate' Baley.

Argentina's fans were divided over Pumpido. He admits he is not one of the game's great dramatic artists. He does not like diving about for the sake of it and mistrusts goalkeepers who do. All his career, too, Pumpido has been used to working hard for recognition.

River Plate were no different when Pumpido was bought by the 'Millonarios' in the wake of Fillol's departure for Flamengo of Brazil after a contract row. But veteran coach Angel Labruna quickly appreciated Pumpido's ability, as did Carlos Bilardo on succeeding Menotti as national team boss in 1983.

Pumpido was not quite established, however, as automatic Argentina goalkeeper in the wake of Fillol's exit. He had one notable rival: the young, hot-tempered Estudiantes keeper, Luis Islas. In the end Bilardo cast his vote in favour of Pumpido's experience and self-control. Yet such was the pressure in 1986 World Cup year that even Pumpido once dropped his guard and allowed himself to be provoked to expulsion in a league game against Argentinos Juniors.

That was but one slip-up in a year which established Pumpido as equal to statistically great keepers such as the German, Sepp Maier, and Brazil's Gylmar.

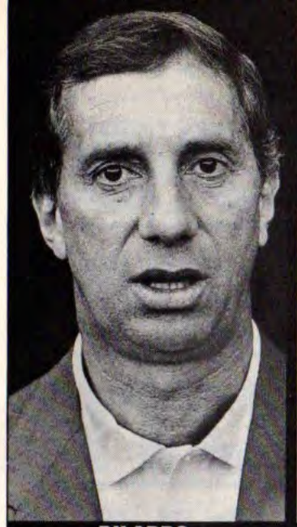
As early as February River Plate were winning the prestigious Mar del Plata prize. Next month they clinched the league title, finishing with the flourish of a 2-0 win over old and hated rivals, Boca Juniors.

A few weeks later Bilardo summoned all his players. His World Cup goalkeepers were Pumpido, Islas and the Mexico-based Hector Miguel Zelada (more of a public relations selection than anything since Zelada played for the top Mexico City club, America). Pumpido was not undisputed No 1. He played in two of Argentina's three pre-Cup friendlies. Then, in the finals, he conceded just three goals in six games on the way to the Final against West Germany.

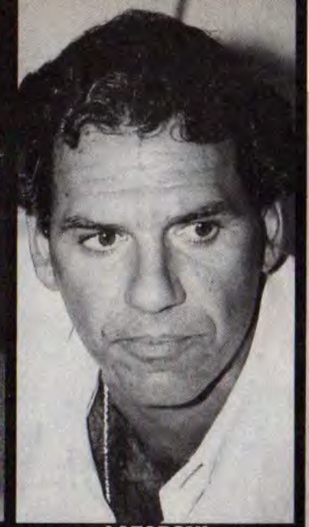
Victory by 3-2 in the Aztec stadium that day provided Pumpido with the first of two world medals. The second arrived in December when River beat Steaua of Romania in the World Club Cup. River had got there by defeating America of Colombia in the South American club final.

Twice a world champion, also a South American and Argentine champion. That's Nery Pumpido, whose career has already survived one agonising incident when he nearly ripped a finger off after catching his wedding ring on a rusty hook behind a crossbar. Surgeons sewed the nerves and skin back together.

His courage, as ever, remained unbroken – awaiting the challenge provided by that leg fracture at Italia '90.



BILARDO



LAZARONI

BILARDO AND LAZARONI WILL PROVE TOUGH ACTS TO FOLLOW

NEWS FROM SOUTH AMERICA

FROM ERIC WEIL

CARLOS Bilardo, the Argentine national team coach who took his side to World Cup victory in Mexico in 1986 and to the final again four years later in Italy, said before going to Italy that he would not be renewing his contract at the end of the year.

By the time it was over he said he would be quitting soccer coaching altogether. Difficult to believe for such a soccer fanatic as Bilardo.

Sebastiao Lazaroni, the Brazilian coach, left the airport through a side entrance on his return to Rio from Italy and locked himself up in his flat for some time to avoid the press and hostile crowds.

He complained he was being treated like a criminal since his return.

Like all Brazilian national team managers, his contract expired with the end of the World Cup and, as he did not win the trophy, will not be renewed.

In both these soccer mad countries arguments are rife on who will be next with almost everyone joining in.

Argentina may try to emulate West Germany's World Cup winning formula of appointing a former national team captain as the next coach. The man in question would be Daniel Passarella who captained the team to World Cup triumph in 1978 and was also there in 1982 and 1986 although a stomach ailment prevented him from playing in Mexico.

Passarella also has something else going for him. In both the case of Cesar Menotti in 1974 and then Bilardo in 1982, the Argentine FA appointed the "man in form" who coached that year's league champions when it came to appoint a new national team coach. Passarella coaches current league champions River Plate.

Current team captain Diego Maradona begs to disagree. He had said that he would not play for the national team again after the World Cup, but now he conditions his continuity to Carlos Pachame, Bilardo's assistant coach, being made national coach and that current veteran internationals Ricard Giusti and Jose Luis Brown be put on the coaching staff.

That would mean a continuance of the defensive tactics employed by Bilardo as opposed to Passarella who, coached in the Menotti school, is trying to make a return to more attacking soccer.

Also on a possible short list is Boca Juniors coach Carlos Aimar, another of the Bilardo defensive school, but an Argentine daily running a poll has Hector Veira, who has just left for Cadiz (Spain) at the top.

Among the possible candidates for the Brazilian job are Carlos Alberto Parreira, Emerson Leao and Paulo Roberto Falcao, all former Brazilian internationals.

Leao is the former goalkeeper who currently coaches Portuguesa in the Sao Paulo league and an FA spokesman confirmed that his was the name most often mentioned in connection with candidates.

Carlos Alberto Parreira already held the job in 1983, is an admirer of Franz Beckenbauer and the 3-5-2 formation. He also suggests that teams should be reduced from 11 to 10 players.

"Today's player is a real machine, the field now appears to be too small and it is difficult to work out movements. In view of the improved physical fitness of players teams should be reduced from 11 to 10 to leave more open space on the field," he says.

Favourite with Brazilian FC chief Richard Texeira is Falcao.

Falcao, who played in Brazil's World Cup teams of 1982 and 1986 and attributes the team's poor showing this year to a lack of synchronisation between defence and midfield and attack.

"We need to return to having tactical organisation. The team did not play compactly as it should have. For Lazaroni's defensive scheme to work,more training and more speed was needed."

Falcao said Brazil would have to start preparing a team now to play in the 1992 Olympic Games and this would be the basis of the 1994 World Cup team. Texeira meanwhile said recently that the next coach would not have the same powers as Lazaroni as he would be working mostly with the players on the field and have a technical director over him.

He also said that future Brazilian teams would be composed only of players with Brazilian clubs and not "exiles" of which there were no less than 12 in Italy. The FA can easily enforce such a role. They have to pay out thousands of dollars to bring home exiles, pay their salaries and insurance to their clubs.

Zico, the former international midfielder who is now government sports secretary, says that Brazil will bid to host the 1998 World Cup finals and the Olympic Games in the year 2,000.

Hoax

Meanwhile, also on the international scene efforts are being made to heal the rift between Brazil and Chile since their World Cup qualifying match last year when the Chilean team walked off the field in Rio de Janeiro as a result of an injury hoax from Chilean goalkeeper Roberto Rojas.

An inter-club tournament was held in Santiago (Chile) for the Copa Amistad (Friendship Cup) in July between Brazil's Sao Paulo FC and Flamengo and Chile's Colo Colo and Universidad ole Chile – won jointly by Sao Paulo and Colo Colo – and there was talk of another international tournament in Brazil during September.

Sao Paulo FC players meanwhile were drawing up a petition asking FIFA to lift the life ban on Rojas who was a Sao Paulo player before the incident. But the Brazilian club are hoping to collect 300,000 dollars insurance which they had taken out on the player (in case he could not continue playing) at the time of the transfer.

Men in the news

JOAO SALDANHA, politician, journalist and soccer coach, who died in a Rome hospital from a lung ailment at the age of 73 in July, shortly after the end of the World Cup finals which he was covering as a journalist for Jornal do Brazil and Brazilian radio, was quite a character.

A member of the Communist Party in Brazil since 1935 and active in politics apart from always being a very critical journalist, the highlights of his coaching career were taking Botafogo, with Nilton Santos, Didi, Garrincha, to the Rio league title in 1957 and coaching the national team before the 1970 World Cup which they eventually won in Mexico.

His strong criticism of the national team led the Brazilian FA to give him a chance to show if he could do better, but from the start his temperament always got the better of him.

He had problems with some of the players and specially with Antonio Dos Passos, head of the FA's technical committee who resigned and would not return while Saldanha was coach.

Saldanha stayed, but things came to head when he broke into the Flamengo club's training camp one day to threaten their coach, Dorival Knippe, better known as "Yustrich" with a revolver because he had criticised him.

That was too much and Joao Havelange, then boss of the Confederation fired him.

There were other reasons however, his politics being one of them but not by any means the main one. Under Saldanha the national team had played 17 games, won 14, drew one and lost only two, but this good record was meaningless when he threatened to drop Pele from the squad, saying the player was short sighted and in poor form.

Pele was past his best by then, but still a power in Brazil. Saldanha was the one to go, Pele stayed and Mario Zagalo was named national team coach.

But Saldanha's bark was worse than his bite. I will never forget when I asked him for an interview in Rio in 1970 when he was still national team coach and he invited me to his home for supper. We talked about all sorts of things until the early hours.

RENE HIGUITA'S foray out of goal which cost Colombia a goal and a 2-1 defeat against Cameroon as a result of which they were eliminated in this year's World Cup finals does not seem to have worried Colombian fans.

They still voted him as the country's best player in a poll carried out by a radio station – in which over a million people were said to have cast their vote – and in which the prize was a house by the beach in Cartagena.

ARTURO SALAH, the 40-year-old Chilean coach of first division champions, Colo Colo, a former chemical engineer and international winger in the early 70s, has been named Chile's national coach.

SERGIO GOYCOCHEA, Argentina's penalty-saving World Cup goalkeeper, is now the most popular man in his country. The post office at his native Lima, in the province of Buenos Aires, has had to create a special post mark for him due to the amount of letters he receives which are delivered at his home in bags.

PENAROL CALL ON MENOTTI MAGIC

NEWS FROM SOUTH AMERICA

CONTINUED

BY ERIC WEIL

PENAROL, one of Uruguay's two big clubs, set the country's soccer scene alight by signing former Argentine World Cup coach Cesar Menotti at a reputed salary of 5,000 dollars a month plus bonuses on top of a 200,000 dollars contract fee.

Roberto Fleitas had resigned as coach a few days earlier after the team had only picked up one point in their first two matches.

At press time they had won their first game, but the table was topped by two small clubs, Bella Vista and Central Espanol with full points from three games.

Penarol are in financial difficulties as all other Uruguayan clubs, but their president, Jose Pedro Damiani, says that 52-year-old Menotti's engagement will pay for itself.

For a start they will be paid more for matches they are due to play in Europe shortly, he said, and they will also have assured themselves of continued sponsorship at home which had been in doubt.

Furthermore Menotti's presence, Damiani thought, would increase gates which at some of their matches recently had been as low as 3,000.

Penarol were in the process of converting their training ground, "Las Acasias", into a small 8,000 capacity stadium to use for most of their games as it would work out cheaper than renting the big Centenario stadium, where they have usually played, from the municipality.

Fans had been turning their back on soccer – probably as a result of Uruguay's poor show in the World Cup which was to be investigated by a special committee. On the opening day of the first division only 12,171 tickets were sold for the seven games.

The two big clubs, Penarol and Nacional, who traditionally shared all the honours between them until recently, have lost their supremacy as a result of financial problems and the continual player exodus which have affected all clubs and levelled out standards.

Now neither of them has won the title in three years and, for the first time, they both failed to qualify for this year's Libertadores Cup.

In the past players from small clubs all dreamt of moving to the big clubs, but this season, for example, Diego Dorta, the 18-year-old Central Espanol midfielder who was a revelation last season, refused a move to Nacional, preferring to wait for offers from abroad.

Before this season started, referees were given similar instructions as those at the World Cup to cut out rough play. As a result 10 players were sent off on the first day's seven matches and the average has continued to be one a match so far.

MEXICO: A recent meeting of the 20 Mexican first division clubs in Acapulco where 400 players were to be auctioned or 'drafted' American-style, was criticised by several sides, not least by the players themselves although it was organised mainly to keep out middlemen and agents to keep prices down. However Chilean striker Jorge Aravena of champions Puebla was priced at 2.5 million dollars and Universidad de Guardalajara midfielder Alfonso Sosa at two million. The main complaint is that the players have absolutely no say in which club they go to if they are sold.

While this system is common in professional sport in North America such as baseball, basketball and American football, it is a novelty in soccer which has not been too well received.

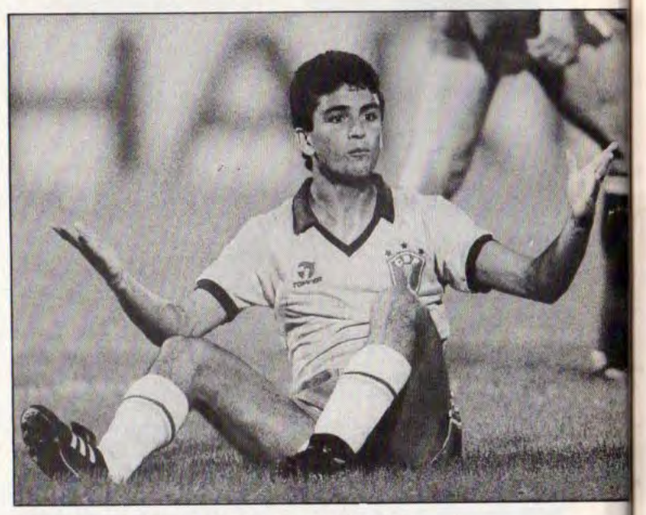
BRAZIL: Corinthians had gone through 27 games unbeaten in the Sao Paulo League and Vasco da Gama, the Brazilian champions, had qualified to meet Botafogo, the current holders, for the Rio league title at press time.

The play-offs for the Rio title, between the two stage winners and the team which had gained most points overall, were held over until after the World Cup. Vasco da Gama, dominating the game despite the absence of suspended star striker Bebeto, beat Fluminense 1-0 with a Bismarck penalty in the 67th minute and were due to meet the other finalists, Botafogo, for this year's state title.

In the Sao Paulo state league, Corinthians, led by midfielder Neto – a controversial omission from Brazil's World Cup team who has since been bought by Italy's Napoli for two million dollars to eventually replace Maradona – extended their unbeaten run to 27 games, but still trailed surprise black group leaders Bragantino, a small team, by a point.

Palmeiras led the red group and their most recent 1-0 win over Portuguesa was highly publicised as "the battle of the coaches". Tele Santana, who coached Brazil's World Cup teams in 1982 and 1986, is now in charge of Palmeiras and went on record as saying that he did not want to see former Brazilian goalkeeper and current Portuguese coach Emerson Leao taking charge of the national team because he makes his teams play defensive and violent soccer.

Santana's team won, but Leao's played the better soccer and created more goal chances and Leao was only too keen to tell reporters after the match: "You saw who played more offensively and created more fouls."



Bebeto, Vasco da Gama striker out through suspension.

Meanwhile the Brazil Cup, a two-legged knock-out between last year's state champions is also in progress and at press time Flamengo, Bahia, Atletico Mineiro, Goias and Nautico Recife had qualified for the quarter-finals

PARAGUAY: First round winners Cerro Porteno also won the second round of the Paraguayan first division and now have two bonus points to take into the end of season eight-team final round.

Champions Olimpia and Colegiales took the next two places and qualified for the final round, but they were due to play off for second place and an extra 0.25 bonus point.

With one round to go from which two more teams qualify, bonus points obtained so far are: Cerro Porteno 2, Sportivo Luqueno 0.75, Libertad, Olimpia and Colegiales 0.50.

ARGENTINA: In Argentina the National Championship was due to begin on August 19, but big clubs were pressing for changes resisted by the smaller clubs who were in the majority.

The problems were mostly financial blamed on poor gates, but really caused by bad administration. Big clubs want to play on Saturdays – so far the day for lower divisions – instead of Sundays, retain the entire gate receipts at home games (so far a percentage has gone to visitors), force TV to pay more and radio to pay for match commentaries (which has so far not been the case), change the points system to no points for a 0-0 draw, one for a draw with goals, two for a one goal margin victory and three for a bigger win. So far only the matter relating to TV and radio has been approved.

COLOMBIA: The government allowed the second round of the Colombian championship to start in spite of the fact that only eight of the 15 clubs had complied with regulations about opening their books (showing where their funds were coming from) and revealing the identity of shareholders, etc in a campaign to stop drug money going into soccer clubs.

Libertadores Cup holders Nacional of Medellin had already brought two games forward, losing one and winning the other, as they were due to face Mexico's UNAM, the CONCACAF champions, for the Inter-American Cup.

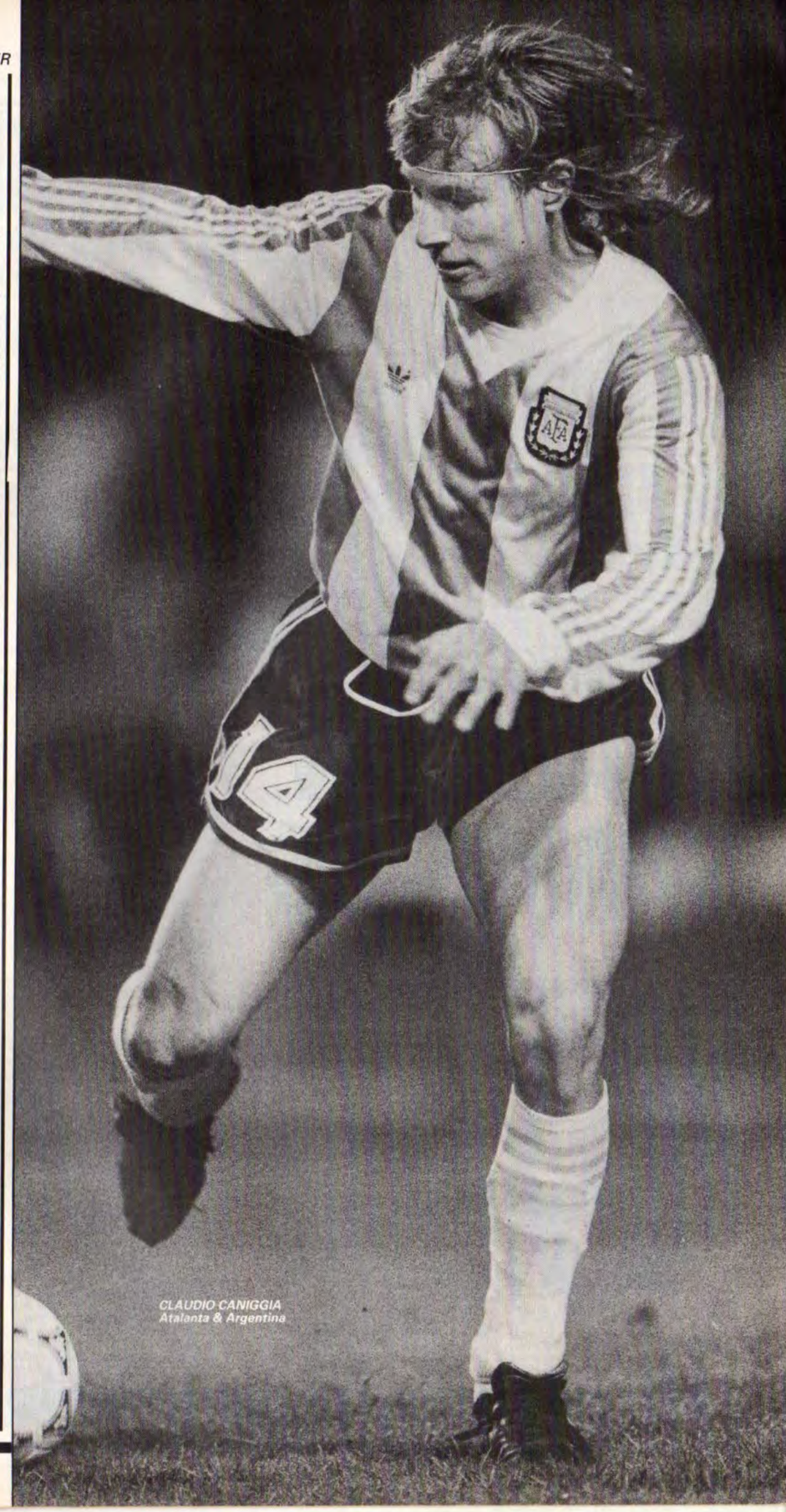
CHILE: The first division started in Chile and after two matches last year's top teams, champions Colo Colo and vice-champions Universidad Catolica share top place on five points.

But Colo Colo entered the tournament with two bonus points for winning the pre-season competition and Universidad Catolica with one point as they were losing finalists. The other semifinalists, Union Espanola and O'Higgins also have a bonus point each.

BOLIVIA: Jorge Wilsterman of Cochabamba, sponsored chiefly by the Bolivian airline and therefore nicknamed the "Flyers Team", caused a scare recently when returning from a league match. Their plane had mechanical and radio problems which caused it to be "lost" for almost two hours.

San Jose, who had beaten Wilsterman 2-0, led group A of the second stage of the championship while The Strongest were the group B leaders.

ECUADOR: Nacional, the only team traditionally without foreign players clinched the first stage of the Ecuadorian first division with two games to go while second-placed Deportivo Quito had also made sure of a place in the eight-team final round.

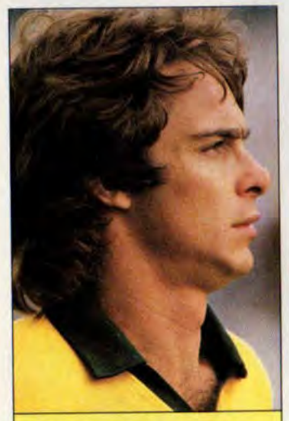


CLAUDIO CANIGGIA
Atalanta & Argentina

Brazil's controversial striker Serginho has been involved in a number of unsavoury incidents during his career with Santos.

BRAZILIAN SHAMBLES

FROM BRIAN HOMEWOOD



Nelsinho on loan to Flamengo.

BRAZIL'S football directors have again been busy with their calculators and slide rules, and have come up with yet another mind-boggling format for the Brazilian championship, which was due to begin this month and finishes in December.

This year 20 teams will dispute the title (compared with 16 in 1987, 24 in 1988 and 22 last year) and as usual they have been split into two groups.

In the first phase, the teams play once against every team in the other group and the top team in each group go into the quarter-finals. In the second phase, the teams play once against every team in their own section, and again the top team in each group go on. They are then joined by the four teams out of the remaining 16 who gained the most points throughout the first two phases.

Then the tournament turns into a knockout, with each round being played on a home and away basis and aggregate score, a surprisingly logical system, being used to decide the winners. In the case of equal aggregates, the team with the best record in phases one and two goes through.

If you find these rules rather strange, don't worry – 140 million Brazilians feel the same way. Apart from its complexity,the format has two other obvious defects: the knockout system means that the best team will not necessarily win the championship, and the teams who ensure their qualification in the first phase will be playing meaningless matches in the second.

Perhaps World Soccer should hold a competition to see who can come up with the silliest formula for a competition. The winning entry could then be sent to the CBF and used for the 1991 Brazilian championship, just in case the local directors should run out of ideas.

One of Ricardo Teixeira's first promises when he took over as CBF president early last year was that the Brazilian championship would be played along the same lines as the major European leagues, and decided on points.

This is the second Brazilian championship under his presidency, and there is still no sign of this promise coming true. It was a stupid thing to say in the first place, because Teixeira does not decide the format. Representatives of the participating clubs do that.

Appointing favourites for the title is almost impossible, because no team stands out from the rest.

Current holders Vasco still have, on paper, one of the stronger sides, with Bebeto (when uninjured), veteran Roberto and Sorato, one of Brazil's brightest prospects, to call on. The weak point is the defence, even more vulnerable following Mazinho's departure.

Flamengo, now managed by Jair Pereira, have reinforced their team with Bobo and Nelsinho, both signed on loan from Sao Paulo in exchange for Alcindo and Leonardo. Bobo was the hero when Bahia won the title two years ago, and was then sold to Sao Paulo for £1.2 million dollars in the biggest transaction ever between Brazilian clubs.

He is expected to fill the role until recently occupied by Zico. With Flamengo's demanding fans, not many people would envy him the job. But if he is successful, he could earn a recall to the national team. He played in three friendlies early last year, but has been ignored since then.

With Junior reconsidering his decision to retire, and the unpredictable but occasionally brilliant Renato Portaluppi still available, Flamengo are potential title winners.

Sao Paulo's hopes lie mainly with Corinthians, if they can hold on to Neto, and Palmeiras, now managed by Tele Santana but without a title for 14 years.

The once great Santos are no longer a force and must be grouped with Portuguesa, Sao Jose and Bragantino as second-rate Paulista clubs.

Brawl

But Santos may be worth watching, just to see how many times Serginho is sent off. The veteran striker, part of the 1982 World Cup team, has been involved in incidents throughout his career. The latest occurred early in April when he was banned for 150 days for his part in a brawl that held up a Sao Paulo-Santos game for more than 20 minutes. The ban was reduced and Serginho duly made his return in July, only to be sent off again four days later.

The Brazilian championship will give a chance for the other clubs to prove that there is football outside Rio and Sao Paulo, despite what you might believe from the Press in those two cities.

The two Belo Horizonte clubs, Atletico – who still depend to a large degree on the temperamental Eder, another survivor from 1982, and Cruzeiro – can be relied to put up a serious challenge for the title. So can the Porto Alegre sides, Gremio and Internacional, although the latter will be without the transferred Taffarel.

The main hope is that the competition reveals some new talents that the country desperately needs. Players who could make a name include Sorato, Assis, of Gremio, and Tulio, a 21-year-old striker who plays for Goias and was top scorer in the competition last year. He has been forgotten since, largely because he has committed the cardinal sin of not playing in Rio or Sao Paulo.

Of course, as this is Brazil only half the battle will take place on the pitch. It is hard to imagine that the 1990 championship will pass without at least one director going to court to try to get the whole thing suspended, or making allegations that his team were robbed by a referee, or prejudiced by the fixture list, or that a rival may be manipulating the competition through influence in the CBF.

Names likely to crop up in this dispute include Eurico Miranda, a Vasco director, Vicente Mattheus, president of Corinthians, and Eduardo Jose Farah, president of the Sao Paulo Football Federation.

The clubs in the championship are:
Group A – Nautico, Gremio, Internacional, Sao Paulo, Cruzeiro, Flamengo, Fluminense, Sao Jose, Palmeiras, Vitoria.
Group B – Santos, Corinthians, Bahia, Atletico, Botafogo, Bragantino, Portuguesa, Goias, Internacional, Vasco.

It's another championship mix-up

MEMORY LANE

LEONIDAS: BRAZIL'S BLACK DIAMOND

BY NICK BIDWELL

Only puzzled frowns greeted the old Brazilian journalist at the World Cup finals this summer who, in the wake of the defeat by Argentina, shouted "Leonidas, where are you?"

Few fans know the name. Yet he was the precursor to the likes of Pele, Vava, Jairzinho and Careca – and how desperately Brazil needed his penalty box power that sad afternoon in Turin.

The vintage year for this lithe and potent striker was in France in 1938 when during the last of the pre-war World Cups. his eight goals earned him the distinction of the tournament's leading scorer.

Unfortunately the exploits of this acrobatic centre-forward in France were not destined to reach a world wide audience they surely merited. The World Cup was still in its infancy and, of course television was far from the universal medium it is today.

In a career spanning two decades, Leonidas proved to be an innate goalscorer, possessing those typical Brazilian skills of improvisation and trickery. Indeed he was a master proponent of the bicycle kick – a spectacular and rare weapon in the game at that time. He was dubbed the rubber man due to his ability to withstand the clumsy and often violent attempts of tormented defenders to stop him, and became his nation's first World Cup hero.

Alien

The Leonidas legend emanates from his scoring feats in 1938 when he propelled Brazil to a well-deserved third place. For their World Cup opener the 'Selecao' were pitted against Poland in Strasbourg. Brazil fielded no less than six debutants and despite the alien conditions of an extremely muddy pitch, Leonidas treated the Alsatian crowd to a goal feast, scoring four times.

His Polish counterpart, Ernst Willimowski, did the same, but Brazil won 6-5 in extra time.

This was the match when the Rio-born Leonidas entered World Cup folklore as the chief protagonist in a bizarre second-half incident. He was perturbed by the increasingly sodden field of play, deemed that he would perform better without his boots, and promptly removed them. Swedish referee Eklind would have none of it, and forced him to put them on again.

Somewhat inevitably, Leonidas was now a marked man and the next round saw him the subject of merciless treatment from the boots of Czech defenders. Brazil were equally brutal, and Zeze Procopio was sent off before Leonidas pounced to beat the Czechoslovak keeper, Planicka.

The violence continued unabated and following the further dismissals of Czechoslovakia's Riha and Machado of Brazil, the Europeans finally succeeded in equalising thanks to a penalty from Nejedly, who had stoically remained on the field in spite of a broken foot. There being – thankfully – no penalty shoot-outs at that time, the tie was replayed two days later in a much more serene atmosphere. And an evidently half-fit Leonidas still managed to score the first in Brazil's 2-1 win.

Leonidas heads one of his four goals against Poland in 1938.

In Brazil's semi-final with holders Italy in Marseille the player known as 'the black diamond' was again at the very vortex of attention – despite not setting foot on the Stade Velodrome turf. Such was Brazil's confidence in reaching the final that manager Pimenta decided to rest Leonidas for the ultimate match. This complacent folly was 'rewarded' by a 2-1 win for Italy – a result that did not reflect their domination.

But there was still an opportunity for Leonidas to console himself with the third-place decider against Sweden. He was recalled, appointed captain for the day, and scored twice in a 4- 2 victory.

The self-deluding Brazilians had mismanaged their World Cup campaign, but at least they possessed the tournament's top scorer in Leonidas, whose eight goals put him three ahead of the Hungarian Zsengeller and the Italian star, Silvio Piola.

Leonidas da Silva grew up in the Sao Cristovao district of Rio de Janeiro and like so many Brazilians was reared on a staple diet of beach football, those impromptu Rio training grounds which over the years have provided a seemingly endless supply of talented players.

Basketball

His initial steps into the world of organized soccer took place with the junior sides of Sao Cristovao, Barroso, Sul Americano and Sirio Libanes, where he also excelled as a basketball player thanks to his jumping ability.

He then transferred to the Bonsucesso club of Rio and while there in 1932, at the age of 19, he was selected to play for his country in the Rio Branco Cup in Uruguay. He made a sensational debut, scoring both goals in Brazil's 2-1 triumph, and the favourable impression he made persuaded Uruguayan club giants Nacional to sign him.

Injury curtailed his time in Montevideo to a mere 16 games in six months, but even then he recorded 11 goals.

Leonidas returned to Brazil in 1934 and helped Vasco da Gama to the Rio championship, before moving to Botafogo and claiming another Carioca crown in 1935. Three years later, wearing the red and black hoops of Flamengo, he took part in a third title-winning campaign.

The eye-catching form Leonidas showed in the World Cup led to a lucrative deal with River Plate in Argentina. Yet once again emigration did not agree with him, and he returned to play for Sao Paulo. The mere announcement of his signing sparked a wave of spontaneous excitement among the club's supporters, and 8,000 new season ticket holders paid for the privilege of seeing him in action.

Nor were they to be disappointed, as he supplied many of the goals to ensure Sao Paulo a succession of Paulista championship wins, in 1943, 45, 46, 48, and 49.

Leonidas retired from the game in 1950, at 37. Incredibly he had won only 19 caps, but that derisory figure should not detract from the influential position he holds in the evolution of Brazilian soccer.

He was the catalyst, whose extraordinary performances during a French summer allowed Brazil to make an initial mesmeric impact on the world game and lay the foundation for future spectacular successes.

His goalscoring skills made him a target

Johnston goes – and stays

BY ALAN FAIRLEY

Fleck (above) is a potential replacement for Johnston (left) if Roxburgh (right) gives the OK.

FOR the second summer in succession, Rangers' controversial striker Maurice Johnston has commandeered the lion's share of headlines – first with a disciplinary row at Rangers and then by walking out on Scotland.

Last year his historic transfer to the Ibrox club from French side Nantes ensured maximum exposure.

This time Johnston made news on being sent home in disgrace by manager Graeme Souness from Rangers pre-season training trip to northern Italy.

After an "incident" which resulted in a series of facial injuries, Johnston was left to sweat it out for a few days as he awaited Souness's return to Scotland and consequent news of his own personal fate.

During the interim period, rumours abounded as the facts behind the Italian 'incident' were sought. Although stories were circulating regarding the possibility of an old fashioned fist fight between Souness and Johnston having occurred, the official line was given that the Scotland striker had unwisely over-indulged in the sampling of the local wine and had subsequently fallen against a metal bed frame in his hotel room, hence the facial lacerations.

Upon Souness's return from Italy, a crisis meeting was held in an Edinburgh hotel where, apparently, a suitable apology was proffered by Johnston leading to his reinstatement into the Ibrox fold. Within days Souness and Johnston were pictured together smiling and joking as they modelled Rangers' new playing kit, the player's misdemeanours having evidently been forgiven.

The next upset was little more than a week in arriving – with Johnston and Aberdeen's Jim Bett walking out of international football just one month before Scotland's crucial opening European championship tie against Rumania.

The Rangers striker had hinted on his return from the World Cup that he would not wear the dark blue again but this was treated as the result of post-Italy depression.

However Johnston confirmed his intentions in an article in the Rangers News, the club newspaper, and was joined on the Scotland self-destruct list by Aberdeen midfielder Jim Bett – who had only just turned down a Nottingham Forest interest to sign a new deal at Pittodrie.

National coach Andy Roxburgh revealed the news when he announced his 16-man Scotland squad to face the Scottish Football League select at Hampden Park in the League's centenary celebration match.

Bett claimed that, at 30, the prospect of another two-year campaign towards the European finals, or four years in the case of the next World Cup, was unappealing. The Aberdeen man has 26 caps, ten fewer than Johnston, who has given up an outstanding international career at 27.

The Rangers striker is Scotland's all-time highest scorer in the World Cup, with ten goals in the tournament. He played in all three matches in Italy, scoring the second goal from the penalty spot in the 2-1 victory over Sweden in Genoa.

Accused

Coincidentally, Johnston and Bett were at the centre of a row during the World Cup when, on a night out in the resort of Rapallo – the team headquarters – they were accused by Scots fans of being drunk and disorderly. No disciplinary action was taken against them because Roxburgh and SFA secretary Jim Farry claimed that they had permission to go out for a drink and no rules had been breached.

Roxburgh said: "Of course nobody wants to lose players of their calibre but there is always somebody else. Look at players like Robert Fleck and Pat Nevin. They certainly have the ability. Now they have an opportunity to be part of what we hope will be a more exciting Scotland team, with more flair."

Dunfermline manager Jim Leishman, who had almost single-handedly led the Fife club from the wilderness of the Second Division to a respectable position in the Premier League, was the subject of pre-season controversy when he rejected the offer of a boardroom position at East End Park.

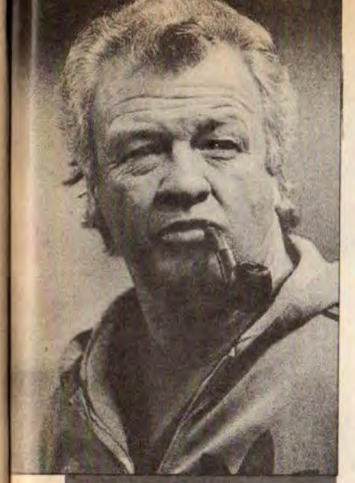
The club's directors wanted him to take a more active role in commercial activities, thereby leaving former St Mirren, Rangers, Hibs and Sunderland defender Ian Munro in full control of the team but the ebullient Leishman insisted that he would only work for Dunfermline in a managerial capacity.

Astonishing scenes were witnessed in the town as the fans, led by Big Country singer Stuart Adamson, mobilised in support of Leishman with a series of demonstrations and threats of boycotts and the weight of public opinion was recognised by the Dunfermline board who eventually relented, agreeing to a compromise which was designed to enable Leishman and Munro to take joint control over team affairs. But in the end Leishman decided to end his 22-year association with the club.

As the Scottish Football League enters its Centenary Season marked by a Hampden match between Scotland and an extremely cosmopolitan Scottish League Select, nobody can complain of any lack of action during the summer months.

The World Cup, the aborted Hearts-Hibs merger, Mo Johnston's continuing troubles and the ongoing influx of overseas talent into Scotland have all contributed to an eventful close-season.

If the season itself can produce as many talking points, there will be no shortage of interest.



Billy Bingham

Portadown take on Porto

BY MARK WEST

PORTADOWN the Irish League champions, have a potentially lucrative tie against Porto of Portugal in the Champions' Cup.

This is a just reward for Portadown's remarkable efforts to lift the national crown for the first time in their history, in dramatic circumstances.

On the last day of the season they faced the previous season's champions, Linfield, at Shamrock Park. Portadown then held a point advantage over Glenavon, who were playing Coleraine.

Both matches were goalless at half-time but after 56 minutes news filtered through that Glenavon had taken the lead thanks to Stevie McBride.

By the 62nd minute the title tilted back into Portadown's favour when Steve Cowan headed home Greg Davidson's corner. Ten minutes later, Portadown were home, when Davidson scored the winner.

The double looked on, but in the Irish Cup Final Glentoran comprehensively beat Portadown 3-0 at Windsor Park. They have been drawn to meet Steaua Bucharest in the first round of the Cup-winners' Cup.

Glenavon were guaranteed a European place irrespective of the title, because they finished ten points clear of Glentoran and Linfield,and have been paired with French club Bordeaux in the UEFA Cup.

Billy Bingham's Northern Ireland rounded off the international season with a magnificent 1-0 home win over World Cup finalists Uruguay. Bingham (pictured above) knows he has a tough time ahead in the European Championship qualifiers as he prepares to face the varying talents of Yugoslavia, Denmark, Austria and the Faroe Islands.

In the May edition of World Soccer I named Aston Villa's Steve Butler as the goalkeeper who had decided to play for England rather than Northern Ireland. I meant his club colleague, Glen Livingstone. Apologies to both players over the confusion.

NEW MOOD IN WALES

THE 1991 European Cup-winners' Cup Final could be staged in Cardiff if the Football Association of Wales get their way.

They have suggested Cardiff Arms Park, the rugby stronghold, as the venue – a bold move reflecting the confident mood now pervading Welsh soccer and typified by three significant events late last season.

Firstly, the Welsh Cup Final was staged at the Arms Park for the first time, sponsored by Welsh Bitters. The game drew 4,182 supporters, and Hereford including three players called Jones – beat Wrexham 2-1 to lift the trophy for the first time and take it out of Wales after a six-year stay.

Ineligible

Bryan Flynn's Wrexham had displayed an upsurge in form that secured their Football League place and were determined to win the Welsh Cup for a record 23rd time. It was not to be, but the defeat did not affect their place in the European Cup-winners' Cup because Hereford, an English club near the Welsh border, are inelligible.

Mark Hughes tries a header against Costa Rica.

Wrexham will face Danish club Lyngby in the first round and must be hopeful of progressing.

The second positive aspect for Welsh football was the reintroduction of the Under-21 team. Manager Terry Yorath has been desperate to see the team back in action and he got his wish on May 19, at Pennydarren Park, home of Merthyr Tydfil, when the prospective future and fringe internationals recorded a 2-0 win over Poland.

The last time Wales had played an Under-21 international was on December 13, 1983, at Somerton Park, Newport, when they beat Yugoslavia 1-0.

The senior team also recorded a significant event when they beat World Cup finalists Costa Rica 1-0 at Ninian Park. Dean Saunders, Wales's most consistent performer last season, scored the winner. This was the first Welsh win since April 1988, and followed a 4-1 defeat by Sweden the previous month.

Saunders has done so well that Liverpool's Ian Rush could find himself pushed sideways as Wales embark on their European Championship challenge against Belgium, Luxembourg and the reunified Germany.

Aberdeen – going Dutch again

BY ALAN FAIRLEY

Newcomer Theo Snelders

Powerhouse midfielder Peter Van der Ven is the latest addition to Aberdeen's growing colony of Dutch footballers, the former Willem II player having been signed by the Pittodrie side during their close season tour of Holland.

Van der Ven now joins fellow Dutchmen Theo Snelders, Hans Gilhaus and Willem Van der Ark as the Dons prepare to challenge for honours once again, having won both the Skol Cup and Scottish Cup last season.

"Van der Ven is a very experienced, accomplished player," observes Aberdeen boss Alex Smith, whose policy of "going Dutch" in recent years has produced exceptional dividends for the Dons in terms of domestic honours. "He can play in defence as well as in midfield and will be a welcome enhancement to our squad."

There is no doubt that the presence of three of Van der Ven's countrymen at Pittodrie influenced his decision to come to Scotland.

"Theo, Hans and my former clubmate Willem Van der Ark convinced me that a move to Aberdeen would benefit my career," confirms the big Dutchman who is presently househunting in the city with his wife Diana. "I'm looking forward to the prospect of playing in the Scottish Premier League and helping Aberdeen challenge Rangers and Celtic for honours."

As well as the four Holland-born players in the Dons squad, the Dutch connection is further evidenced by the contribution of English striker Paul Mason. The former Merseyside docker was transferred to Aberdeen from Holland's Groningen in 1988 and it was his two goals which helped win the Skol Cup for the club last year.

The ongoing influx of foreign talent to Pittodrie, allied to the decisions of Scottish internationals Alex McLeish and Jim Bett to remain with the club after a period of uncertainty, looks certain to provide Aberdeen with sufficient resources to launch a sustained challenge to Rangers for the domestic championship this season.

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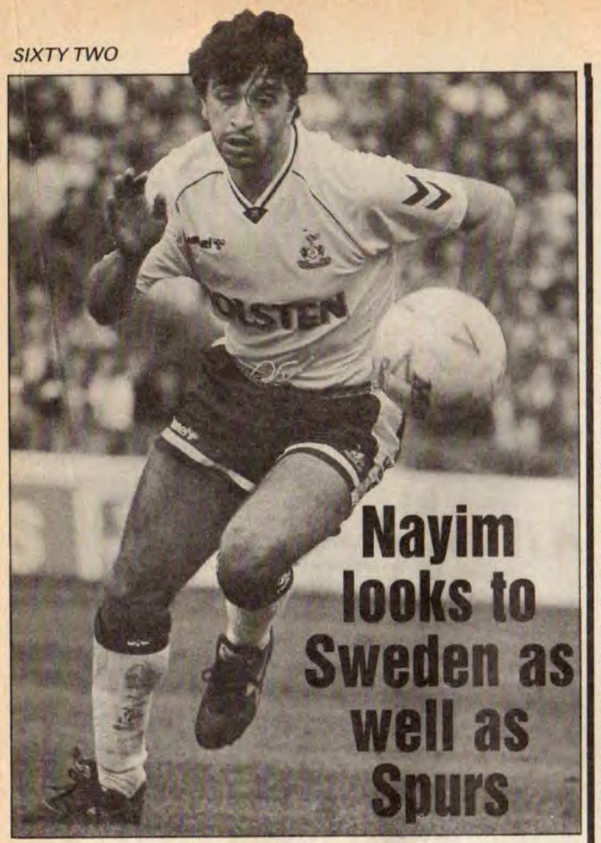


Nayim looks to Sweden as well as Spurs

BY STEVE LEVEN

MOHAMED Ali Amar, alias Nayim, has a strange footballing background.

No other player in the Football League has Spanish nationality or was born in North Africa, and I doubt if there are many Moslems at this level, either. Despite catcalls from the crowd at Spanish League matches, however, Nayim does not regard these attributes as a hindrance, and he is now looking to promote his considerable footballing talent on the world stage.

The links are obvious. Terry Venables, the current Tottenham manager, nurtured the young African when he came to Barcelona. But for the whims of club president Jose Luis Nunez both might be enjoying success at the Catalan club right now.

Their loss was Tottenham's gain, more so in February 1989 when Venables bought Nayim for £500,000. "For me," he says, "it was a good opportunity. I had known Terry Venables from his time at Barcelona and with Amor and Roberto well established under Johan Cruyff in the Barca midfield, I did not have many opportunities to play."

Spanish

Nayim hails from the Spanish enclave of Ceuta, on the North African coast opposite Gibraltar. He could have played for Morocco, but by the time he signed for Barcelona in 1985, he had already decided on Spanish nationality.

The young Nayim was starring in the ranks of a local team when he was spotted by a Barcelona scout. The offer to join them was his first big career opportunity.

"The only ambition I have is to play for Barcelona," he said at the time. "It would have been silly to have foregone the opportunity."

Nayim soon became a Spanish international, at Under-18 and Under-19 level, under the watchful eye of the then federation coach and now national team boss, Luis Suarez.

In July 1986 Nayim, now 19, was chosen by Venables to join the team for pre-season training and tour, thus earmarking him for a future first-team breakthrough. But then it was back to Barcelona Atletico, the Second Division reserve team, for the rest of the season.

Nayim made only a dozen appearances in the Barca first team, even after graduating to the full squad for the 1988-9 season. He spent much of the time on the bench, but not getting a game. Not good enough, he thought, for an aspiring international, now playing at under-21 level, and so the move to Spurs came about.

Technical

He cites the obvious differences in style - English football is quicker and more physical, the continental variety is more technical. In Spain the ball is played along the ground from the back, without bombarding the opposition penalty area in the 'long ball' fashion. But, with Glenn Hoddle as a bygone example, he enjoys being a part of the Spurs team and the way they play.

Nayim's characteristic is a surging run to take on and beat defenders. He can pass with a degree of accuracy rarely seen in England.

He is not a born goalscorer - his right-foot shot is precise more than powerful, as those who saw his effort in last season's Littlewoods Cup-tie at Old Trafford will agree. Rather he is a creative specialist for which Paul Stewart and Gary Lineker have had reason to be grateful. Lineker, of course, was in the team when Nayim made his Barcelona debut in 1987.

Internationally, he is looking towards Sweden 92 for his first appearance in a major finals tournament. At club level, Nayim is looking no further than 1993, when his current contract with Spurs expires. Given a run free of injury, he may well stay on.

England just wait for 1994

BY DERICK ALLSOP

PAUL GASCOIGNE, Paul Parker and Des Walker were merely dipping their toes in the water during the World Cup finals. They will be thrown in at the deep end four years from now, in the United States.

That is the assessment of newly-appointed England aide Lawrie McMenemy, who was in Italy this summer as a World Cup commentator for satellite channel Eurosport.

McMenemy said: "A lot of people were expecting Gascoigne, Parker and Walker to emerge as superstars in Italy, but their big test will come in the 1994 World Cup.

"The spine of the England team will be gone by then. Peter Shilton, Terry Butcher, Bryan Robson and probably Gary Lineker will all be too old."

McMenemy, who had a good look at England's young talent when managing a Football League Under-19 side on a tour to the Soviet Union last year, adds: "Gascoigne, Parker and Walker can be key men for England when the next World Cup comes round. Gazza can become one of the world's great mid fielders if he fulfills his potential.

"He has exceptional skills but tends to make mistakes. Experience should help him to show more maturity in his play. He certainly has the character and self-confidence to overcome any setbacks.

"Gazza is a free spirit and that can drive a manager to distraction. Most people wanted him to be included in the England squad, but Bobby Robson was aware that while Gazza could win a match with one flash of inspiration, he could also lose it with one moment of thoughtlessness.

"Now he has made the breakthrough, Paul can emerge as the new Glenn Hoddle. And if he shows the right degree of responsibility he can run the England midfield for years." Meanwhile new England chief Graham Taylor was talking about his four-year plan for success in the next World Cup. He wants closer links with players and managers, and that includes taking club training sessions.

He said: "I'd like to be the most track-suited manager England ever had. I want to leave as much paperwork as possible to others. I want to be out there with the players. The biggest problem is that we are so club-orientated in England, not international-orientated. If the players can't come to you between internationals, you have to go to them.

"One of my first jobs was to contact all the First Division managers and explain my thoughts. I want to go training with them, to do a session with them. I'm confident that a number of clubs, if not all, would be pleased to receive me. One thing I can't afford in this job is to be isolated from Football League managers.

Favourable

"Going to a match on a Saturday and trying to have words with players and managers is not the best way to keep in touch. It's best to talk football talk during the week, in the changing room or the treatment room, in their own environment."

When Taylor was asked if he expected the likes of Kenny Dalglish and Brian Clough to allow him into their clubs, he said: "I can only ask. If people say 'No way I want the England manager' I have to respect that. But I have had a favourable response so far. If I can see England players working during the week it can leave Saturdays free and I might be better off going to watch a match in Italy or Spain."

Taylor has now started his coaching visits – Southampton was his first stop – and reaction of club managers brought more encouragement for him.

Manchester City's Howard Kendall said: "Graham is welcome at Maine Road any time he likes." Chelsea's Bobby Campbell said: "If we wants to do a session here he can. If he wants to get closer to the players, it's only fair he comes down to see the internationals and the potential internationals. We have eight at our club."

Taylor, 45, had to contend with inevitable questions about the futures of 33-year-old Bryan Robson, 31-year-old Terry Butcher and the man who still struggles to repeat his club form at international level, John Barnes.

He said: "All pro footballers think they have another two years. They all know when it's time for someone else to go – but never themselves. There will be players whose international careers will be over. I realise what they have done for their country and it will be difficult to tell them."

Taylor's aim is to match the consistency of World Cup winners West Germany. "We ought to be able to put ourselves on a par with them. Are they that much better?" he asked.

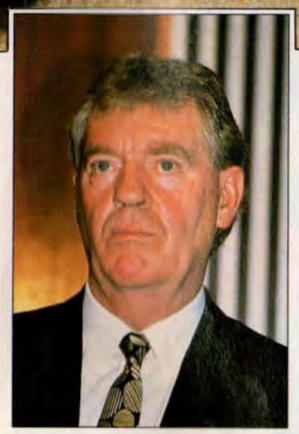
Friendlies

His earnest wish is that the upsurge of English football will be sustained – "My worst fear is that we might get back into a situation where football is nobody's friend. The game does not deserve the hammering it has had, English clubs out of Europe and the game bashed politically."

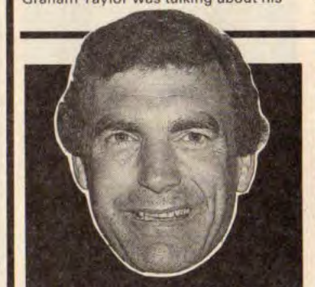
Taylor hopes to maintain England's momentum with Wembley friendlies against Cameroon, Argentina, Soviet Union and West Germany – all World Cup competitors – over the next 12 months. First, Hungary visit Wembley for his debut this month.

Movement in the player transfer market has been less than dramatic. Chelsea spent £1.6 million to sign Dennis Wise from Wimbledon and £1.25 million on Republic of Ireland international Andy Townsend of Norwich.

Manchester City have been busier than most, buying goalkeeper Tony Coton from Watford for £1 million, selling full- back Andy Hinchcliffe to Everton and taking Neil Pointon plus £600,000 in return, then paying Middlesbrough £500,000 for midfielder Mark Brennan. Leeds must pay Leicester £1 million for Gary McAllister, the figure Arsenal agreed for Sweden's Anders Limpar.



England's new manager Graham Taylor holds his first training session with a League club . . . Southampton where his assistant Lawrie McMenemy (left) was once boss.



TREVOR BROOKING

Chelsea and Man. City can upset the 'big five'

FORM can often be unreliable in the early flurry of Football League fixtures, but I expect the usual "big five" clubs to provide the main challenge in the First Division this season.

Liverpool ended up comfortable winners last season when the arrival of Ronny Rosenthal inspired them to surge clear at the top. His permanent transfer creates an interesting selection problem for manager Kenny Dalglish, with the future role of Peter Beardsley providing the main query.

Arsenal boss George Graham has finally spent some Highbury money and although David Seaman and Andy Linighan are sound investments it is the arrival of Swedish international Anders Limpar which could prove crucial.

The loss of form of David Rocastle and Michael Thomas did not help last season, but it was apparent that Arsenal were lacking any natural wide attacking player down the left.

Brian Marwood was injured for long spells and unless Nigel Winterburn kept racing forward the supply of crosses was fairly sparse.

Limpar could help increase the goals for tally they found difficult away from home, and Alan Smith can rediscover his goal touch.

Tottenham, meanwhile, must try and capitalise on the success of Paul Gascoigne and Gary Lineker for England, and make sure they don't fritter away silly points at White Hart Lane.

Manchester United will hope Neil Webb and Bryan Robson can make more league appearances this time and that Paul Ince continues to mature with their guidance.

The key to their success is again whether Mark Hughes, Brian McClair and Danny Wallace can blend more smoothly so that goals are scored more frequently. Otherwise Alex Ferguson will again see his challenge flounder and turn again to Mark Robins as the alternative.

Everton have signed Andy Hinchcliffe to solve their left back problem, but there still seems to be an undercurrent of unrest within the squad which needs the boost of a good start to disperse.

Manager Colin Harvey will also be anxious to find the right permutation in attack where Graeme Sharp, Tony Cottee and Mike Newell have struggled for consistency.

Credentials

So, who might surprise this formidable group? Aston Villa and Nottingham Forest have the most obvious credentials and yet I feel both are short of the necessary strength to succeed this time round.

The departure of Graham Taylor to England makes it very hard for his successor Jozef Venglos to match Villa's great effort of finishing runners-up, so I feel Europe is a more realistic hope than the league.

Forest still appear short of firepower although Brian Clough knows that should improve if his son Nigel can recapture his form. So, I plump for Chelsea and Manchester City to perhaps be more capable of springing a surprise.

The London team have made two shrew additions to their squad with Dennis Wise and Andy Townsend, but my main concern is whether defensively they can reduce the occasional lapses in concentration.

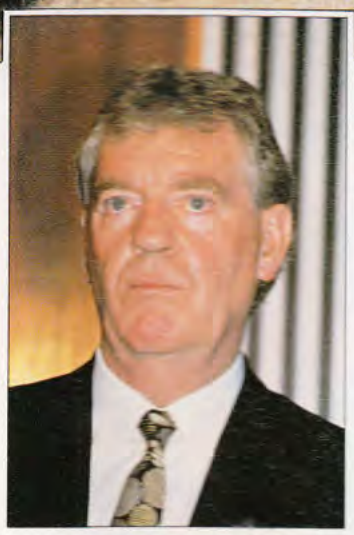
Howard Kendall had City surging really well back in April and May as they raced away from the relegation battle, and some good early results could see them dispel any fears of a repeat this season.

Of the three promoted clubs, Leeds have spent extensively on Gary McAllister, John Lukic and Chris Whyte and have enough ability at the club to approach their return to the First Division with optimism.

With only two clubs to be relegated next May, I feel Sheffield United and Sunderland will be striving to consolidate their stay in the top flight. rather than set their sights too high.

They will hope their leading strikers Brian Deane and Marco Gabbiadini can find the goals they will need in the testing months ahead.

Andy Townsend, signed by Chelsea from Norwich City.



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